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THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2014

Pages 20-21
Health & Beauty

**YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £25 TO SPEND
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See Page 25 for details of our weekly Facebook Competition...

**Wales and the
Six Nations** Pages 30 & 48

ST CLARE'S SPACE INVASION!



ABOVE:
Pupils at St Clare's School,
Porthcawl, wrote their own school
musical, building a storyline around
some of their favourite songs.
(See full story on page 5).



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POLICE APPEAL AFTER MAESTEG VEHICLE ARSON

SOUTH WALES POLICE are
investigating after two parked
cars were set on fire at
Hyfrydol Care Home,
Maesteg.

Officers were called to the scene
at 6.15am on Saturday, March 8.

Police are appealing to anyone
with information about the inci-
dent, or who saw anyone in or near
the care home premises in
Turberville Street to come forward.
Sergeant Mathew Lewis said: "I

urge anyone who was in the area at
the time and saw anything suspi-
cious, or has any relevant informa-
tion, to come forward to help us
with our investigation.

"I believe that someone in the
local area knows who is responsi-
ble."

Anyone with information should
contact South Wales Police on 101,
or Crimestoppers free and anony-
mously on 0800 555 111, quoting
occurrence 1400076907.

**VICTIM STAGGERED FROM
HOUSE, BEGGING FOR HELP**

Suspended sentence for woman who stabbed her partner

A DRUNKEN
woman stabbed her
partner in the leg
with a steak knife
during an attack in
their home.

The victim, Stewart
Hibbert, staggered from
the house shouting:
"Help me, please help
me, she's stabbed me", it
was stated at Cardiff
Crown Court.

Michelle Griffiths
(40) of Pant Hirwaun,
Bridgend, admitted to a
charge of wounding.

She was sentenced to
12 months' imprison-
ment, suspended for two
years, and made subject
to a supervision order.

**Report by AJ
SICLUNA**

Said Judge Patrick
Curran: "It was a very
serious offence and it's
no excuse that you were
drunk. But I have seen
details of the difficulties
you have suffered in the
past, and you continue to
suffer, in particular,
mental health problems.

"You have a major
depressive disorder and
you are described as
being very vulnerable."

Prosecutor Julian
Greenwood said the cou-
ple shared accommoda-
tion in the Heol-y-Cyw
area of Bridgend.

On September 27, she
was extremely drunk
and said that on a scale
of one to ten, she was at
number ten.

At about 6.45pm,
neighbours heard bang-
ing and smashing com-
ing from the home,
which was a regular
occurrence.

One of the neighbours
opened his front door
and saw Mr Hibbert
stagger into the road,
begging for help.

He said that Griffiths
had cut him on the knee
with a knife and had
stabbed it into his right
calf.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4)

JRC

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Local Supermarket hands £1,000 to First Responders



LEFT: It was smiles all round as the bumper £1,000 cheque is handed over to the First Responders.

FILCO supermarkets have donated £1,000 to Cowbridge Community First Responders to help them save lives in the area.

Stores in Taibach, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Caerau, North Cornelly, Sarn, Talbot Green, Bryntirion and Maesteg raised the monies for a defibrillator through their membership of Nisa and its 'Making A Difference Locally' (MADL) charity.

MADL is an independent registered charity, created in 2008, which enables retailers to raise money through promotions where a specified amount of the cost of the product is allocated to a fund.

Ian Hunt, managing

director for Filco Supermarkets Ltd, said: "It is important to be part of your local community and we are delighted to put the money towards a piece of life-saving equipment. We are proud to be able to make a difference in our area."

The Filco chain joined Nisa in 1979 and has since expanded with several stores including the most recent addition in Maesteg on Commercial Street.

Lynne Duncane from Cowbridge Community First Responders, said: "The £1,000 has enabled us to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) to shorten response times and save lives in Cowbridge and the surrounding areas."

"The use of an AED can dramatically increase the chances of

survival if a patient's heart stops beating – but it must be used promptly. Brain cells start to die within three to four minutes of a

cardiac arrest and for every one minute delay in delivering the shock, the patient's chance of survival reduces by up to 10 per cent."

For more information visit www.filco.co.uk or www.makingadifferencecencelocally.com.

AM's challenge over student phones bills

REGIONAL Tory AM Suzy Davies has challenged The Student Loans Company over its use of 0845 phone numbers, after hearing that it made a profit of £324,000 in just one year from these calls.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, discovered that in the financial year 2010 to 2011, the company received revenue of £324,872 from its use of 0845 numbers.

She has now written asking them if they intend to replace these numbers with a geographic number.

She said: "Students trying to make contact with this company about their loans have no choice but to use the 0845 numbers."

"Students living away from home in rented accommodation do not usually have access to a landline and have to use their mobiles which ramps up the cost to them again. Some mobile networks are charging as much as 41p a minute for such calls."

"Students are already under huge financial pressure and the costs now associated with higher education are

prohibitive without them having to rack up massive phone bills if they have to chase up late payments or deal with other problems."

"I have also asked them for more recent figures about the revenue they are getting from these calls. Students may well be feeling ripped-off at the moment by a company set up to help them fund their way through college or university."

Derek Ross, director of operations and customer services at the Student Loans Company stated: "The Student Loans Company, is reviewing our phone lines in the coming year to ensure we continue to provide a quality service that meets customers' needs."

"Towards the end of last year, Student Finance Wales introduced the number 0300 200 4050 which costs customers no more than calls to geographic (01 and 02) numbers and also costs towards inclusive free call packages on mobile phones."

"Our phones lines are just one way in which customers can contact us. We would also encourage people to use our social media channels and the web (www.studentfinance.wales), which provides information on our most common queries."

Schoolchildren's patriotic concert for Coychurch WI

PRESIDENT of Coychurch WI, Sandra Davidson, welcomed a packed hall to the recent meeting which included three guests – Rosemary Bartlett, Ann Humphries and Arlene Wilcox.

Mrs Hurry, headteacher of Llangrall Primary School, introduced Mrs Jones (senior teacher) along with the children, who delighted the audience with a St David's Day concert.

There were performances from talented pupils, including three pianists, a violinist, three recitations and the choir – with the WI joining in to sing 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah'. To conclude the performance, everyone sang the Welsh National Anthem.

Details were given of the suggested summer outing to Liverpool; scrabble afternoon sessions in the

Prince of Wales each Wednesday from 1.30pm; and coffee morning on April 15 from 10am – 12pm in the WMH. Departure times were given for the Walk in Bath on March 27; the Ascot Ladies' Theme Day on June 19 will be held in the Star Inn, Treos from 12 – 5pm; 95th anniversary celebration on July 8 in the WMH will be a 1920s theme from 12 – 5pm.

An appeal was made for new members to join the committee at the May general meeting; members will perform a sketch at the combined arts afternoon entitled 'A Feast of Words' on June 27 in the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl.

A thank you letter was received from Angela Gorman, in respect of the donation received following her talk on African mothers last month; and a floral presentation was made to member Jean Jakeaway, on her 50th wedding anniversary.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr John Owen – The Paddocks, Llan Road, Llangrallwyd, Maesteg, Bridgend – Construct section of roadway hard standing and animal feed store.

Mr Richard Davies – 22 Cherry Tree Avenue, Porthcawl – Retention of as built facing brick wall.

Mr PV Rossini – 5 South Road, Porthcawl – Convert disused shop to domestic dwelling with alterations to roof to include additional floor.

Ms Cathryn Marcus – 1 Bryn Hyfryd, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed – Change of use of dwelling into two separate dwellings.

Mr Minton – 3 Bowham Avenue, Bridgend – Rear part ground and first floor extension and garage.

The Marine Hotel and Flatlets – Land between Lifeboat Road and Marine Terrace fronting the Square and Knight's Arms, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Partial demolition of Knights Arms and the construction of four holiday lets and incorporating parking.

Mr and Mrs Robert Anthony – Land between Lifeboat Road and Marine Terrace fronting the Square and Knights Arms, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Demolish rear storage building

Partial demolition of Knights Arms and the construction of four holiday lets and incorporating parking.

Mr Matthew Reid – Building adjacent Logica, Technology Drive (CGI IT UK Ltd), Bridgend Science Park, Bridgend – Install four fresh air ducts to east elevation and six outlets to south elevation.

Mr Ian Jones – 1 St John's Priory, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Erection of a three bedroom two storey dwelling with integral garage.

Mr G John – 58 Redlands Close, Pencoed – Single storey side extension.

Mr B Roper – 33 West Drive, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Extension in height of existing boundary walls to front and two sides of existing property.

Streamam Ltd – 9 Talbot Street, Maesteg, Bridgend – Demolish rear storage building

Mr and Mrs Robert Anthony – Land between Lifeboat Road and Marine Terrace fronting the Square and Knight's Arms, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Demolish rear storage building

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HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MARCH 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
20 Thur	08.29	9.6	20.48	9.5
21 Fri	09.04	9.4	21.25	9.2
22 Sat	09.42	9.1	22.06	8.9
23 Sun	10.33	8.7	22.57	8.4
24 Mon	11.23	8.1		
25 Tues	00.11	7.8	12.55	7.7
26 Wed	01.44	7.8	14.24	7.9
27 Thur	03.08	8.4	15.44	8.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Biomet plans 60 new jobs with £2.7m investment

BIOMET UK Ltd is expanding at Bridgend, with support from the Welsh Government, and will create 60 new jobs over the next two years.

The facility on the Waterton Industrial Estate was named as Biomet's worldwide centre of excellence for manufacturing joint implants in 2009.

Investment was supported by the Welsh Government. Products including knee joint implants are exported globally.

This latest investment of £2.7million for plant and machinery follows

the successful launch of an advanced G7 system in 2013.

The expansion is backed by £694,000 business finance from the Welsh Government. Biomet UK Ltd is ultimately owned by Biomet Inc, and a site at its global headquarters in Warsaw, Indiana, USA, was under consideration for this project.

Economy Minister Edwina Hart said:

"Biomet's importance to the Welsh economy is recognised by awarding it anchor company status and I am delighted that new investment and new products are being introduced to the Bridgend site."

News from Sker WI

THE March meeting of Sker WI was held recently, when a charity evening in aid of ACWW went well and over £200 was raised.

Polly Davies gave a talk, with slides, on her visit to the Grand Canyon. It is amazing how large an area it covers. During the interval, members enjoyed pancakes.

At the main meeting, two members of the British Red Cross stepped in at short notice to tell us about the movement.

The Red Cross started in 1863 through a Swiss

businessman, Henry Dunant, who was appalled at the suffering he saw. The Red Cross is now a worldwide organisation which helps people in many ways apart from the medical side.

There are 6,000 staff and over 30,000 volunteers in the UK alone. They have fundraising events and also retail outlets.

The day trip to Denman College in Oxfordshire is coming soon. The college is run by the WI, and offers various day and residential courses. Afterwards, there will be some retail therapy at Swindon.

The next meeting is on April 10 at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when a member will tell us about 'Basic First Aid'. Anyone wishing to join us will be very welcome. **Ann Vipond**

CELEBRATE YOUR WELSHNESS!

PORHCRAWL residents can celebrate Wales and Welshness this month – by buying and wearing an Age Cymru Leek.

The older people's charity is running its first Big Welsh Month fundraising campaign and the leeks are available from the Age Cymru shop at 37, John Street.

You can join in the fun of Big Welsh Month by buying an Age Cymru Leek, or contact Age Cymru to ask for a Big Welsh Month fundraising pack by ringing 029 2043 1555 or emailing fundraising@agecymru.org.uk.

North Cornelly man escapes a jail sentence after head butt

A MAN'S face "exploded with blood" after a fellow drinker in a North Cornelly pub headbutted him.

At Cardiff Crown Court, prosecutor David Thomas said a witness described it as "the best and worst headbutt she had ever seen delivered".

Andrew Stacy (26) of Llan-y-Cariadon, North Cornelly, was sentenced to 50 weeks' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work.

He had been convicted by Bridgend Magistrates of charges of affray and assault, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Mr Thomas said that Stacy was in the Greenacres pub in North Cornelly. Also there was the victim, Joe Collins.

Stacy approached him, they spoke for two or three minutes and without any warning,

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

Stacy headbutted him in the face.

The witness later said: "It was horrible to watch. His face exploded with blood, and there was a lot of screaming and shouting."

"The victim didn't retaliate in any way."

During the incident, a woman Annika Osborne, fell to the floor and injured her legs, and damaged a number of teeth.

The incident, said Mr Thomas, was graphically captured on CCTV.

Stacy's solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "He realises the offence has crossed the custody threshold."

"It was his first night out for some time, and he drank vodka, which he does not normally do."

"He can't remember anything of the incident, which he regrets terribly."

He was horrified and sickened when he saw the CCTV footage."

He said he didn't have

a problem with alcohol or drugs, and the offences were out of character.

"Since the incident, he has not been out socialising."

Judge Eleri Rees told Stacy: "The CCTV footage speaks for itself. It was disgraceful behaviour, using your head as a weapon, and it is remarkable Mr Collins didn't suffer a fracture. The degree of violence was appalling."

"If you can't hold your drink and turn to this animal behaviour, then you must not drink."

She said that Stacy, who had no previous convictions, richly deserved to go to prison.

She added: "This is your last chance."

He was ordered to pay £500 compensation to Ms Osborne, £350 costs and £100 victim surcharge.

Join big Sleep Out for the homeless

FOLLOWING on the success of the first Sleep Out held in 2013, Emmaus South Wales will be holding their second Sleep Out, from 8pm on April 11 to 12pm April 12, in Porthcawl Town Centre.

It is anticipated that 80-100 people will be sleeping out in solidarity with the 400 homeless people in Bridgend borough.

Justin Horton, Director of Emmaus South Wales, said: "Registration is still open for men, women and children over 12 years, to join us on our Sleep Out. It's sure to be a great evening. What better way for teams from local businesses, communities

and families to show support for the 400 homeless people in Bridgend borough than to sleep under the stars for one night in our organised event?"

He added: "It's meant to be fun, but has a serious message. Emmaus South Wales wants to raise awareness of the serious homeless issue that exists in the area. We have already had offers of support from local councillors and we are hoping that more people in the area will come on board and join us."

Justin stressed that toilet facilities, cardboard boxes to sleep in, hot drinks and food would be provided!

Click on to the website and follow link at www.emmaus.org.uk/south_wales or telephone 01656 648426.



ABOVE: SHOWING SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS.

Back down from cloud 9!

THE Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild is now back down from cloud 9, following the big celebrations for the diamond birthday.

Our usual group activities have been held – a cinema visit, literary group reading humorous poetry, and craft group busy as usual.

Our March meeting was the AGM when there was some change in officers – Dorothy Thomas taking over as chairman and Jean Dorrington as vice-chairman. Dee Richardson after a long stint first as treasurer for 13 years

then chairman for four years, is now our president. Well done Dee and thank you, but we shall still be working her hard on the committee!

Presentations of flowers were made to Dee and to our retiring president, Ruth Lloyd. The meeting closed with the cutting of a beautiful birthday cake enjoyed by all members.

Our next meeting is on April 9 at 2pm in All Saints Church Hall, when Ceri Joseph will be telling us about the part played by Porthcawl in the Great War; all welcome. For more information, telephone 01636 772157.

Dorothy Thomas

Pencoed WI news

FOR the second year, we entered a team in the GFWI Whist competition at Ystradowen and Pencoed WI all enjoyed the event with one of our ladies placed second with a score of 102.

February saw the turn of intrepid darts team at Llanharri Working Men's Club. Our team played consistently in all their six matches. This is my tactful way of saying they lost every match, but our captain Val won the prize for the highest score with three darts, 117.

I admit to feeling sorry for our team; they hadn't practised for a year, as they had nowhere to practice in Pencoed.

Our listed speaker for March had to cancel, so the talk about Tommy Cooper was replaced with Sally Mabey talking about the Bayeaux Tapestry.

I found this very interesting and informative and talking to some members they agreed with me.

Pat Phillips

Brynteg duo chosen for Welsh Wind!

TWO Brynteg sixth form students have successfully auditioned for the National Wind Orchestra of Wales.

Celyn Ripley (head girl) and Jesse Goss are both gifted musicians and we congratulate them on their talent, success and dedication to music.

Celyn said: "I started playing the flute when I was nine years old. I play regularly in the Bridgend Youth Orchestra on Friday nights where I have been a member since I was four years old. I also play in the Four Counties Youth Orchestra, which I started in year-8."

"This will be the third time I have had the privilege to be selected to play in the National Wind Orchestra of Wales. I have always supported school music, playing in the school orchestra and flute group."

Celyn passed the Grade 8 music exam with a distinction in year-10. These are just some of

Celyn's achievements to date.

Jesse first showed an interest in music at 12, while living in America. He came back to the UK when he was in year-9. At Brynteg, he learned to play several instruments but his main instruments are the clarinet and the saxophone.

He joined the school orchestra and the wind orchestra, under the guidance of Mrs Fender (head of music), Mr Hamer and Mr Grey.

At present, Jess is a clarinetist with the Bridgend County Youth Orchestra, Bridgend County Jazz Orchestra (where he plays the saxophone), the Four Counties Orchestra (who hold a week's course three times a year), the Swansea Community Orchestra (clarinet), Bridgend Swing Band (saxophone) and the National Jazz Youth Orchestra (again playing the saxophone).

Pam Doster.

The quiz total for 10 charities tops £4,300



ON Sunday, March 16, I had the pleasure of presenting the sum of £815 to Beth Margetson The Farmers Arms in Nottage – £200 of which was raised through a Christmas raffle.

The money has been raised from a Sunday evening quiz held at The Swan in Nottage over six weeks or so. I hosted the quiz and was delighted with the generosity of fellow quizzers. Since January 2013, the quiz has made £4,300 for 10 different charities, which is an outstanding amount to help wor-

thy causes. The money has been raised by donations of 10p for an incorrect answer and various other ways of raising funds.

I would like to thank all who participated in the quiz and also all the volunteers my husband Andrew, Kay and David Boswell and Marion and Clive Jones, who collected the money, dealt out raffle tickets for correct answers and counted funds collected over the weeks.

Thanks also go to the regular quizzers for their generous donations, and Merf for setting up his equipment.

I am also eternally grateful to the Porthcawl United Services Club for their donation of £110 towards the cause, with special thanks to Christine and Bernadette, who collected this fantastic amount.

Unfortunately, the Swan closed on February 26, so the quiz is unable to continue at that venue, but I would sincerely like to thank Mark and Julie for giving me the opportunity to conduct my quiz for the last 13 months there.

The quiz will now take place at The Farmers Arms at 6pm every Sunday. Come along and join in the fun!

Hayley Williams

SURGERY

OGMORE MP Huw Irran Davies will be holding a surgery in Bettws tomorrow (Friday, March 21) between 1pm – 2pm in the cafe at Bettws Life Centre, Bettws Road, CF32 8TB.

ART SALE

PORHCRAWL Art Society will hold a sale on March 28 – 29 of art materials, paints, brushes and pastels at the Old Police Station, John Street, 11am until 4pm.

Trading Standards steps up the pace for local businesses

AS part of their ongoing support and guidance for businesses, officers from Trading Standards have taken part in a speed networking event attended by

over 50 local organisations.

Organised by Bridgend Business Forum, which is supported by Bridgend County Borough Council, the Bridgend Speed Networking Business Breakfast was an intensive session of two-minute mini-meetings which allowed representatives from a wide range of organisations to introduce themselves in a quick, high impact setting.

Trading Standards took part in the event with the aim of engaging with local businesses and to explain their widely varied role, which includes helping businesses understand their legal obligations. With the help of Bridgend Business Forum, Trading Standards intends to offer tailored training to businesses, in the near future.

Council Leader Mel Nott, said: "This was a highly successful, well-attended event, which we were pleased to be involved with. As a service, Trading Standards provides comprehensive advice and support to consumers, but this event allowed us to demonstrate our commitment to supporting our local businesses."

"By offering advice and education, we can ensure businesses are confident in complying with consumer law. We also wanted to dispel the myth that Trading Standards acts solely on behalf of consumers, and I'm pleased to say we've subsequently been contacted by local organisations requesting our attendance at other business-focused events."

Local businesses are encouraged to contact Trading Standards for advice by calling 01656 643478 or emailing tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk.

For more information about the Bridgend Business Forum visit: www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk or email: business@bridgend.gov.uk.

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Help get toad out of a hole!



Could you help a toad out of its hole?

B C B C 's Countryside team and the south and west Wales amphibian and reptile group (SWWARG) are asking local residents to help local toads cross the road in safety during the annual journey back to their breeding grounds after a winter snooze.

At two locations in Bridgend county borough, toads' hibernation

sites and their spawning ponds are divided by roads, and their perilous expeditions coincide with rush hour traffic.

Lily pad lifeguards are required at both Heol y Felin in Heol y Cyw and Tondur's Parc Slip Nature Reserve to get the toads out of a hole by helping them to hop along to safety.

To find out more contact Emma Douglas on 07579 008578, or email enquiries@swwarg.co.uk.

Rachel chalks up third win of the season

BRIDGEND'S Rachel Leyshon, who is sponsored by Riverside Hardware & Engineers Supplies, chalked up her third win of the season when winning a division of the maiden race at the Curre & Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases last Sunday.

Riding the seven-year-old bay gelding *Distant Sound*, she caught *O'AllTheStars*, ridden by Marc Barber, on the run to the winning post to score by three quarters of a length.

BRIAN LEE

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OGMORE VALE'S BOOKISH PUPILS IN LINE FOR AWARD

BUDDING book-sellers at Ogmores Vale Primary School are in the running to win a national competition.

Enterprise Troopers – part of a Welsh Government's programme – was launched in May 2013 to inspire entrepreneurship in primary school learners, and challenge pupils across Wales to develop their own business ideas, ahead of a national final this month.

The Ogmores Vale Primary pupils developed their business idea in the run-up to Christmas. Year-six wanted to highlight the importance of reading as an aspect of school life and plan to make their book selling enterprise – which even offers a gift-wrapping service, a termly event.

They learned valuable entrepreneurial skills and made more than £200 through their book sales, which they donated to the homeless charity Crisis, to give 11 homeless people a Christmas dinner, a shower, a health check and some clean clothes.

Susanne Roderick, year-6 teacher, said: "I was so proud of the way the pupils developed their idea. They learned vital entrepreneurial skills and grew their business brilliantly."

"The pupils are great ambassadors for the school and I'm delighted that they will now go through to the national final".

Ogmores Vale Primary also picked up an environmental award at the regional final held at Coleg y Cymoedd's Nantgarw Campus, Nantymoel Primary School, also in Bridgend, collected a business engagement award.

Both schools, along with Mynydd Cynffig, will go head-to-head with others across Wales in a bid to become the national winners of Enterprise Troopers at a grand final in the Senedd, on March 25.

The teams are among six shortlisted from across south Wales, also including Trelewis Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil, and Llanyrafon Primary School, Torfaen.



Race is on to repair boardwalk in time for the tourist season

A RACE is on to repair the storm-damaged boardwalk at Rest Bay, Porthcawl, so that it can be ready for the tourist season.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is to carry out repairs to damaged sections of the Wales Coast Path after receiving £100,000 of Welsh Government cash.

More than 11-and-a-half miles of the path runs through Bridgend county borough, and the bulk of the funding will be used to replace damaged sections of the

Rest Bay boardwalk, which took a battering from rocks and tidal debris during the height of the storms. A BCBC spokesman said: "Much of the soil beneath the boardwalk was washed away and footings were exposed, leaving the boardwalk and its benches unsafe to use."

"The repair work will see most of the damaged parts of the boardwalk replaced with new sections, while a concrete path will be added at specific points to help the route stand up to any future bouts of severe weather."

"The council is also

by PHILIP IRWIN

carrying out work to introduce improvements at other sections of the coast path, including better access and bridleway enhancements".

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "Bridgend county borough's outstanding beaches and coastline have always been popu-

lar with visitors and residents alike, and a recent study commissioned by Natural Resources Wales revealed that the area had accounted for almost a quarter of all visits to the Wales Coast Path within a 12-month period.

"It's important to get the path up and running again as quickly as possible, especially as the area is preparing to host high-profile events such

as the Senior Open golf tournament in a few months, so confirmation that the Welsh Government is providing funding to enable us to carry out repairs and improvements is excellent news."

"The stormy weather wasn't the best way to welcome in the New Year, but I hope that we have seen the back of it and can now look forward to the rest of 2014."

Woman's suspended sentence

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital and, as there was possible injury to the nerve, he was detained overnight for observation.

When arrested, Griffiths said she had "lost it" and attacked him for no apparent reason.

The couple have since separated.

She was said to have previous convictions for a public order offence, causing criminal damage and battery. In 2009, she was cautioned for attacking an ex-partner in a flat in Coity Road with a carving knife and stabbing him in the chest.

Her counsel, Meirion Davies, said: "She needs assistance to overcome her problems. She's terrified of custody."

As she left the dock, she said: "Thanks, I don't want to see this court ever again."

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Students take a ride around the Milky Way



ST CLARE'S SCHOOL in Porthcawl was invaded by aliens, starship troopers and mad scientists last week, and visitors to the school grounds may have been alarmed by the amount of green and silver shiny creatures running around.

However, there was no real cause for concern, as it was all a part of this year's senior school musical, *The Milky Way*.

A brand new musical written by the school's music and drama department, *The Milky Way* took audiences on a musical adventure through time and space.

The plot featured everything a hit musical needs; a love triangle, a dramatic fight scene, and an upbeat soundtrack, combined with other more obscure elements such as a time machine, mad professor and a light sabre spectacular.

Every night the pupils, who range from year-7 to year-13, performed excellently and were treated to a well-deserved standing ovation from thrilled audiences.

The lead parts in the musical were played by year-11 GCSE music students Geraint James and Hannah Mort, alongside Molly Brace (year-10), Alex Lees (year-11) and Harriet Collins (year-11). All pupils

sang and performed fantastically and kept audiences clapping throughout the show.

The school's own house band accompanied the lead singers through a mix of hit songs including David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' and Lady Gaga's 'Bad Romance'.

For the past three years, the music and drama departments at St Clare's have written the school musical from scratch based on the songs and ideas that pupils have come up with themselves.

Pupils in the senior school have been rehearsing since September and their hard work and determination paid off with a polished performance every night.

Musical director, David Rees, commented: "This part of my job is without doubt my favourite and the most rewarding. This is because it is such an honour to work with and spend so much time with such a talented, polite and hard-working group of pupils.

"They all deserve to enjoy the plaudits they are sure to receive."

The Mayoress of Bridgend county borough, Coun Pauline James, attended Thursday night's performance and said: "It was a wonderfully inventive show and very funny. The singing and acting were superb and the comic acting and timing were especially well done – it's a difficult medium to do well. I was so impressed by the professionalism of the performers and not to forget the stage management.

JH

'Fibre for breakfast' highlights superfast broadband growth

BUSINESSES in Bridgend county borough had the opportunity to learn more about the significant benefits of high speed internet access through the 'Superfast Cymru' programme, at a business breakfast held by BT Superfast Cymru, the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, and the Bridgend Business Forum, supported by BCBC.

The county borough is among the first in Wales

to benefit from access to superfast broadband – thanks to the multi-million pound programme which is installing fibre broadband nationwide.

Offering much faster download speeds and a more reliable service, fibre broadband brings multiple benefits to businesses and individuals.

Fibre broadband is already available in many areas of Bridgend county borough, including Aberkenfig, Bridgend, Pencoed, Pontycymer, Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill, while the two remaining exchanges in Maesteg and Ogmore Valley are being upgraded shortly.

COLLEGE STUDENTS GAIN IN-SITE INTO APPRENTICESHIPS!



PICTURED: Tom Jones, Malcolm Thomas and Callum Davies with Mike Knight and Petra Foley.

STUDENTS from Bridgend College were invited to visit house builder Redrow Homes' Mon Bank development in Newport recently, as part of National Apprentice Week.

Tom Jones, Callum Davies and Malcolm Thomas, all from the college's construction academy, met Mike Knight and Petra Foley, apprentice coordinators, for a tour of the development with the site manager.

The students were given the chance to see the building process first hand, including the different stages of construction and to learn the importance of Health and Safety on a live site.

The visit also gave the group, who study brick-laying or carpentry, a chance to learn about apprenticeship opportunities.

The company currently employs 13 trade apprentices across their south Wales developments.

Students from the college also visited Redrow's Cwm Calon and Woodland Meadow during National Apprentice Week, which kick starts a recruitment drive.

College students take on Global Entrepreneurship Challenge in Cardiff

ENTERPRISING students from Bridgend College have been battling it out with 6,000 other Welsh students to reach the Wales finals of the Global Entrepreneurship Challenge.

Over three days, 118 students from 19 colleges throughout Wales took part in the Challenge at The Urdd Centre in Cardiff Bay.

Each team had won an individual college competition and the team from Bridgend College narrowly missed out on a place in the global finals in

Germany in June. Merthyr College scooped the overall final place.

The aim is to give 16-19 year olds the opportunity to become more entrepreneurial, by developing skills and competing against peers in an attempt to get through to the finals.

Part of the Big Ideas Wales campaign, the challenge is funded by the Welsh Government and European Regional Development Fund to increase awareness of entrepreneurial opportunities for young people in Wales.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS....

Charity Twmpath I WOULD like to thank Coun Ross Thomas, the Maesteg Mayor, for providing me with the following information on raising funds for his charity fund.

The recent 'Twmpath' a form of Welsh dancing, held in Maesteg Workingmen's Club was attended by 100 guests, and he thanked Welsh band Calennig for a fantastic evening of music and entertainment.

The final fundraising event at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, May 17, will be a charity ball and a black tie event.

For information, e-mail maestegmayor-cf@gmail.com or telephone Lynda/Ross on 01656 735988/734462.

The Mayor's fund this year is to be shared by Maesteg Community Day Hospital, and the local Scouts group. At present the fund has raised over £5,000 to help these two causes.

Choirs combine
OGMORE VALLEY Male Voice Choir is rehearsing for two reciprocal concerts next month, as part of the European exchange programme.

Last November, the choir flew to Croatia, as part of this arrangement and performed in concerts there.

There will be two concerts in April with the choir, a choir from Latvia and two Klapa choirs from Croatia. The first concert will be at Tabernacle, Bridgend on April 24 and the second at the choir's own hall, Canolfan Bethlehem, Commercial Street, Ogmere Vale, on April 25.

So that visitors will feel at ease, the Ogmere Vale event will be similar to the St David's day concert, titled 'Cawl a Chan', with audience participation and everyone will receive a bowl of homemade cawl and Welsh cakes or Bara Brith.

The choir rehearses in its Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmere Vale, on Thursday evenings and welcomes visitors and new members.

For further information, telephone John on 01656 841429.

Breakfast toys
OGMORE VALE Primary School's acting headteacher has thanked members of the PTA, who recently donated £100 to purchase toys for the breakfast club.

On Tuesday, April 1, there will be a family information day in the

main school hall from 10am to 2pm.

Advice and support from over 20 organisations will be available plus arts and crafts table for children. Everyone is welcome.

Tondu Primary
CARERS of pupils in Mr Sullivan/Miss Hopkins class Rhondra are invited to attend the class assembly on March 21 at 10.15am. Everyone is welcome to stay and have a hot drink and a chat with friends and staff afterwards.

Parents are asked to supply changes to their telephone number or address, etc. It is vital that information is correct to ensure the safety of the child.

Children in the craft club are using old jigsaw puzzles to make their own work, and donations of old jigsaw puzzles are sought.

Aberkenfig WI
EUNICE WILLIAMS president of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute welcomed members to the meeting on March 12, including two ladies who became members during the meeting, and Celia who was checking us out, if we pass muster perhaps she will join too!

Happy Birthday was sung to Eunice. The

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
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newsletter was read and some items highlighted, ie the annual council meeting in the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot on May 7.

Swansea Marina is the venue for the treasure trail walk in July and there are a series of taster days for table tennis in the near future.

Then it was time for the speaker for the afternoon, and John Jones was no ordinary speaker!

His subject of 'The First World War and Dylan Thomas' sounded unusual. It transpired that apart from the fact that both these subjects have their centenary this year, there was another element to John's subject.

John's family moved from Anglesey to Nantymoel looking for work in the mines. John showed the ladies a large framed picture of his family when his father was a small boy, and explained who they all were.

He went on to say

that members of his family worked in the mines, including himself, and he was on strike for a year 1984 to 1985 (the miners' strike) and does not regret it at all - he is also a union man and proud of it.

He also spoke of the burial fields in France, which he had visited and of his love of the works of Dylan Thomas. He recited Ely Jenkins' prayer from Under Milk Wood and sang the Sunset Hymn unaccompanied.

He also commented on the fact that the WI will be celebrating its centenary next year from its early beginnings in Llanfair PG.

Dilys Mitchell gave the vote of thanks and the meeting turned its attention to the annual lunches - one to take place in May and one in December.

Eunice announced that the venue for the Link Social on May 23 will be the Archbishop McGrath School in Brackla, and that members would be asked to make cakes.

Maureen Pearce won the raffle, and the competition for an item beginning with the letter M was won by Eunice. The tea hostesses Ethel Rudge and Peggy Jones

were thanked.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute will be on April 9 in the Welfare Hall, Hope Avenue, Aberkenfig, at 2pm. There will not be a speaker as the members will be entertained by the choir from Tondu Primary School and the competition will be for any item beginning with the letter B.

Further information can be obtained from Dilys on 1656 725399 or by visiting www.cobwebs.com.

Christian Aid
MEMBERS of St John's Church, Aberkenfig, are making a big effort to raise money for Christian Aid which helps unfortunate people in third world countries, who have little or nothing to eat.

On Saturday, March 22, between 12pm and 1.15pm, members are inviting the public to enjoy a lunch of home-made soup and bread roll.

They welcome donations for this Lenten lunch, with all money raised going to the charity.

Top quarter!
BRYNMENYN Primary School has

just been congratulated for the substantial improvements at the school the last Estyn inspection in autumn 2012, which made five recommendations.

A subsequent visit by inspectors has ascertained that the school has already reached or surpassed the items raised in their report.

In fact, the school is now in the top 25 per cent of all schools in Wales for foundation phase and Key Stage 2 education outcomes.

Dance exercise
READERS of this column may be interested in a beginners' course in ballroom dancing at Coytrahen Community Centre's Philip Squires hall on Sunday evenings from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. This is a classic way of exercising without going to the gymnasium!

I have also been informed that Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch male voice choir rehearse at the centre on Sunday evenings from 6pm to 8pm; and anyone interested in joining will be made welcome.

Bonsai demo
AT Cefn Cribwr gardening club next Tuesday, March 25, at 7.30 pm in Cefn Cribwr Community Centre, John Carpenter will be demonstrating the art of Bonsai.

On Saturday, April 5, at 10am at the same venue, members will be holding a coffee morning, which is also an opportunity to bring plants and cuttings to exchange with others.

Chorus rehearses

Brackla Community Chorus, which raises money for charities and entertains in residential homes, is rehearsing for a concert at Bryn y Cae care home, Brackla, on Sunday, April 6.

The choir rehearses in Brackla Community Centre on Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. Visitors and new members are always made most welcome.

Bridgend Carer's Centre at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479) is a welcoming venue for all.

On March 26, the Community Café will be open between 12.30pm and 3.30pm and there is a tea dance beginning at 2pm.

On March 27 at 4pm, there will be a showing of the comedy film *Quartet*, starring Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly and Maggie Smith. To book a place phone above number; entry, £3, includes refreshments.

On March 28, the outreach group will be at the Princess of Wales Hospital to give advice and support from 10am to 12 noon.

In the morning at the centre, there will be information on ovarian cancer awareness. Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cancer in women, and approximately 7,000 are diagnosed with the disease each year.

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Having fun with the Welsh language at local library!

A CROWD of 1,395 book lovers packed into the town's library at Bridgend Recreation Centre for its second free bilingual fun day event.

Co-ordinated by Bridgend Library and Information Service in Tyfu, a Welsh Government initiative which encourages families to introduce bilingualism to their children, and supported by Halo Leisure, the fun day featured a host of stories, arts and crafts, songs, rhymes and games that children enjoyed in both Welsh and English.

Youngsters were put through their paces by S4C's Heini, who brought her fun brand of children's aerobics to the library, and TV star Peppa Pig was also on hand to have photos taken with visitors.

The fun day formed part of a wider programme of



Children listened to bilingual stories.

events and activities being run at the library including Welsh language storytime sessions at 9.45am every Wednesday, at Bridgend Library.

Coun Lyn Morgan said: "We're committed to making sure that the Welsh language is accessible for local residents, and hopefully events like

the bilingual fun day and the library's regular Welsh language storytime sessions will encourage more local families to explore adopting bilingual lives."

Paul Whapham,

Halo's community development manager said: "The popularity of this bilingual event mirrors the success we are currently having with our Welsh language swimming lessons."



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GOING BANANAS FOR FONCHO!

Pencoed Comprehensive students are invited to Fairtrade seminar in the Wales Millennium Centre

The following article was written by a pupil at Pencoed Comprehensive School.

BANANAS – the most popular fruit in the world. In Britain alone, we eat over five billion every year. They are grown in over 150 countries and while the cost of production has doubled, here in the UK, the price for bananas has halved in the past 10 years.

You do not have to be a mathematician to realise the numbers don't quite add up. So who is losing out? As you can probably guess, it is the people right at the bottom of the chain. The banana farmers are being heavily exploited.

This is where Fairtrade comes in. We learnt all this and lots more from Fairtrade's 'Stick With Foncho' campaign.

Foncho is a banana farmer from Colombia. He is one of the lucky ones who works with Fairtrade and gets a fair price for his bananas. Fairtrade also gives him a yearly premium to invest in his community, to invest in the local school where his children go and even to allow the women in his village to attend a cooking course and have help to find jobs using those skills. But life wasn't always like this for Foncho.

Before Fairtrade, his trees were not growing very well, the hygiene was poor in the tanks where they soaked the bananas. He was even considering selling his land.

Foncho himself, all the way from Colombia; explained this to us. Foncho told how Fairtrade helped him to improve the quality of his bananas. Now he wants his friends to be able to join Fairtrade so they don't have to sell their land.



Pencoed pupils were inspired by Foncho, the banana farmer from Colombia, when they met at a seminar in the Millennium Centre.

With Fairtrade, Foncho now sells around 60 per cent of his banana crop; if more people bought Fairtrade he would be able to sell 100 per cent. But this is not why Foncho is campaigning for Fairtrade.

He said that he would rather keep selling what he is now so another farmer could sell 60 per cent of their banana crop too.

Foncho's compassion for the community of banana farmers and banana farming, reminded us that we all need to help each other, and we all deserve to be treated fairly.

Although we do not know banana farmers, coffee farmers, or any other farmer

from foreign countries personally, they still deserve to be treated the same way our farmers in Wales and the UK are treated.

We all know that everyone should be treated equally and the way they are being treated is unfair. That's why we have decided to try to get Pencoed Comprehensive Fairtrade status.

Starting with a tuck shop that sells Fairtrade chocolate, set up in the sixth form block. So buy Fairtrade; stick with people like Foncho; and hopefully we can start to make a difference!

SAFFRON FOSTER
(year-12)

Cardiff Airport fighting back!

AFTER years on the ropes, repeatedly being pummeled with falling passenger numbers, it looks as if Cardiff Airport is fighting back – after its latest figures pointed to 12 months of steady growth, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

It was in March 2013 that the Welsh Government bought the airport for £52 million – a decision that has attracted criticism from a number of parties. At the time, the Welsh Government said that lack of investment by the previous owners of the airport had prompted the decision.

It has also granted the airport a £10 million loan for improvements and renovations. Now, it seems that there are signs that things are improving.

Passenger numbers for May 2013 (the first month showing growth following WG acquisition) to February 2014 are 10.6 per cent up, while April 2013 (the first full month of WG ownership) to February 2014 is up by 9.1 per cent.

From April 2013 to the end of February 2014, there were 1,027,000 passengers,

compared with April 2012 to Feb 2013 which was a figure of 942,000. The calendar year that saw the lowest passenger numbers was 2012, at 1,017,000. In 2013, the figure increased to 1,059,000 for that calendar year.

During the 12 months to March 2013, there were 997,000 passengers. For the 12 months to March 2014, the airport is anticipating 1,080,000 passengers (nine per cent up).

Jon Horne, Cardiff Airport's chief executive, commented: "We are really pleased that passenger numbers have grown by more than 10 per cent between May 2013 and February 2014."

"It is a solid start to

the work that needs to be done to deliver continued growth over the coming years.

"The past year has seen lots of change for the better, resulting in an upturn in passenger numbers that began within just six weeks of acquisition by the Welsh Government.

"More capacity and new services have contributed to the 10 months' consecutive growth the airport has reported. "There's much more to be done, but I'm confident we're on the right track with a strong team in place committed to delivering on our growth strategy."

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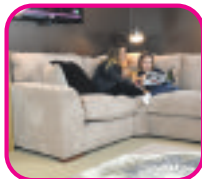
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Winners honoured at the CIT awards!



Mayor Clive James with
award winning Scout leaders,
Pete and Maggie Richards.

AFTER playing 'The Last Post' at the local cenotaph every year, **Remembrance Sunday since 1946**, 80-year-old Charles Griffiths from Pyle, has been honoured as a community hero in the Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2014.

The cornet player was one of 23 remarkable residents from Bridgend county borough to pick up an accolade from Mayor Clive James at the annual ceremony held in the Civic Offices in Bridgend.

Individuals and groups were all recognised for the significant and positive impact they have made in their communities after being nominated by local residents.

Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Councillor Clive James, who presented the awards, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed meeting these amazing people who, through voluntary work, personal achievement or charity fundraising, have made a real difference in their communities."

"The awards give us a chance to say thank you to each and every one of them and give them the appreciation that they deserve."

In addition to the individual awards, five groups were also honoured, and each award winner was presented with a certificate to record their achievement.

Council leader, Councillor Mel Nott, said: "It is always an honour to represent the county borough of Bridgend at the Mayor's Citizenship Awards. This year's winners have all made such a positive impact and I feel confident that their efforts will inspire others to follow in their footsteps."

The award winners included:

Justin Hostettler-Davies

After learning that a close friend had been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, Justin completed a 650-mile

solo walk around the Welsh coast which raised over £14,000 for charity. He finished his hike in August 2013, but his fundraising is far from over as he is planning to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats later this year. Justin was nominated for his award by Madeleine Moon MP.

Florence Thomas

Heralded as one of the most caring people anyone could be lucky to meet, 83-year-old 'Flo' volunteers with the Stroke Association in Bridgend. Flo sits with the stroke survivors and helps them with whatever activity they are doing.

She also regularly cooks meals for the residents at Hanover Court, and one Christmas Day cooked twelve dinners for elderly residents, making the day extra special for them.

Pete and Maggie Richards

Between them, they have decades of experience of providing scouting to young people in Bridgend County Borough as leaders of the second Bridgend (Brackla) Scout Group. Pete initially started as a cub when he was just eight-years-old and he became a scout leader in 1980, while Maggie has been the cub scout leader since 1992.

The pair aren't planning on hanging up their scouting 'woggles' for some years yet, and Mark Casling who nominated them for their award said: "This is a long overdue accolade for them both. They do so much, giving young people fantastic opportunities to experience a range of activities and learn vital life skills, and children and parents really appreciate what they have done."

Other individual award winners at the ceremony were:

Laurence Brophy:

A volunteer at Nottage Primary since 1993, 81-year-old Laurence has organised computer studies, worked with the special needs class and also supported the school cross country team.

(Continued on facing page)



Mayor Clive James with award
winner Florence Thomas.

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Charity workers, volunteers, carers, and fundraisers collect their awards

All of the winners at the 2014 Mayor's Citizenship Awards.



Mayor Clive James presents Justin Hostettler-Davies with his citizenship award.



Rozlyn Peers collects her award.



Laurence Brophy picks up his award.



The Garnwen Trust were one of the group award winners.



Award winner Avril Feeley,



The Mayor with cornet-playing community hero, Charles Griffiths.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

He has also done a considerable amount of charity work, running seven desert marathons.

Graham Brown: Always ready to help his neighbours, and a keen charity fundraiser, Graham is also a regular visitor to the residential home in Pencoed and his pleasant singing voice brings back memories of bygone days for the residents.

Ann Butler: An extremely dedicated volunteer in many roles over 40 years. Among the initiatives that she has been involved with are the Mother's Union movement and the Bridgend Ladies Lifeboat Guild.

Jacob Davies: A year 13 student at Pencoed Comprehensive School, Jacob spends his time inside and outside of school caring for a younger pupil who is in a motorised wheelchair. Jacob has also completed several charity fundraising challenges.

Mark Davies: Working tirelessly with a vast number of community organisations in the Ogmore Valley, Mark has supported the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club, Nantymoel Boxing Club and Wyndham Bowls Club among others.

Michael Davies: An unsung volunteer with the St Cynfelin's Church in Caerau for around 20 years, Michael always looks out for other people including the elderly and disabled. He is well respected in the local community and also works as a street cleaner.

Norman 'Dixie' Dean: Originally from

Surrey, 'Dixie' has contributed so much to the Garw Valley since becoming the sub-postmaster in Pontcymmer more than a decade ago.

In addition to reviving the local British Legion, he has established the annual 'poppy concert' and set up a junior choir.

Diane Dyer: Her appetite for fundraising makes Diane a giant in the charity field, having raised thousands of pounds over the years for causes including Velindre Hospital.

Avril Feeley: Avril has successfully run the Bryntirion OAP Club for 17 years and regularly supports activities at the local community centre. She also cares for an elderly lady in the area and is constantly out and about doing her bit for the community.

Rebecca Green: A year 11 pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Rebecca is an excellent role model and regularly helps younger children by running a multi-sports club.

She has been involved in many fundraising activities and had the privilege of being one of only 12 girl guides from Wales selected to attend a jamboree in Austria.

Alice Gwynne: Raised thousands for charity so that she could go on placements to help communities in Tajikistan and Tanzania.

Gwyneth Kincaid: Now in her 70s, Gwyneth is a superb role model. She has helped to raise thousands for the Tyncoed Surgery in Sarn, helps with the upkeep and grounds maintenance at

Bryngarw Park and is also a member of Sustrans, helping to clear cyclepaths and collect litter.

Colin Lewis: Instrumental to the rebuilding of the Gilead Chapel and Hall, helping it to thrive and put the village of Coity on the map in a very positive way. Colin has also raised thousands of pounds for charity.

Nerys Lloyd: Her tireless community work and charity fundraising went far and above her remit as a PCSO in Pyle and Kenfig Hill.

Charles Middleton: As the founder of the Fairwood Trust, Charles has helped learners aged over 16 to continue with their studies, making a tremendous impact on their lives.

Rozlyn Peers: Working in the post office in Kenfig Hill, Rozlyn always goes beyond the call of duty to help others.

During the snowfall last winter she even collected shopping lists from elderly residents and delivered the goods during her lunch breaks.

Angelo Pucella: A teacher at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Angelo has raised a tremendous amount for the Ty Hafan, organising charity events such as a school 'Bubble Football Tournament' and taking part in the 'Welsh Three Peaks' challenge.

Mark Street: An outstanding volunteer with the Evanstown Community Association. A true community leader, Mark's drive and initiative helped to turn a piece of waste ground into a community garden

in Evanstown where residents can grow their own fruit and vegetables.

The group award winners were:

BridgeVis: A small charity run entirely by volunteers which offers a diverse range of opportunities for vision impaired people.

In 2013, BridgeVis became the first UK organisation ever to win an international innovation award for their allotments at Bronfair in Maesteg.

Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park:

Volunteers have transformed the park and their crowning glory was the recent achievement of a coveted Green Flag, signifying the park's environmental credentials and the progress that has been made since the group was set up in 2010.

The Garnwen Trust: Set up by Richard and Margaret Collins in memory of their son Alex

and his girlfriend Bethan Jones, who were killed in an air crash in 2007. The Trust has raised over £100,000 and has built a multi-purpose log cabin in the Afan Argoed Forestry area for community use.

Lions Club Bridgend:

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for less fortunate members of the community, the Lions Club of Bridgend

has been running for nearly 40 years and 2014 marks the club's 20th year of organising a charity book fair, which has so far raised over £150,000.

Llynfi Valley Historical Society: In existence for nearly 35 years, the society engages with members of the community and beyond to preserve the history of the Llynfi Valley.

Cowbridge keeps a top spot

COWBRIDGE enhanced its cachet this week when it retained its place as one of 11 Welsh towns named in the top 101 'Best Places to Live in Britain' by The Sunday Times.

The accolade came in part one of The Sunday Times' annual 'Best Places to Live' supplement, published on Sunday March 16.

The guide combines data and statistics such as crime rates, house prices and school performance with the local knowledge of Sunday Times writers to compile the top 101 best locations to make a home.

The highest-ranking Welsh town was Monmouth, which was ranked in the top four in Britain.

The other Welsh towns in the list were: Abergavenny; Abersoch; Brecon; Cardigan; Hawarden; Laugharne; Rhossili; Tenby and

Whitchurch in Cardiff. The places were selected for offering the best quality of life to the widest number of people, and combining desirable features such as a positive community spirit, good local shops and services and attractive outdoor spaces.

The Sunday Times Home Editor, Helen Davies, said: "The guide is dedicated to celebrating Britain's abundance of great cities, towns and villages."

"There are lots of places across Britain that are worth celebrating, and everyone has different priorities, so this year our supplements cover everything from the countryside to inner-cities."

Part two of the guide is published with The Sunday Times on Sunday, March 23, and will focus on an A-Z of Britain's cities



ABOVE: Glamorgan NFU Cymru chairman, **Abi Reader**; Lord-Lieutenant, **Kate Thomas**; NFU Cymru president, **Stephen James**, group secretary, **Karen Yates** and NFU Mutual area manager, **Marian Evans**.

NFU Cymru's new HQ officially open

LLANTRISANT'S new NFU Cymru/NFU Mutual office has been officially opened by the Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, **Kate Thomas**, who congratulated group secretary **Karen Yates** and her team.

Playgroup scoops coveted Eco award...



WICK and District Playgroup are celebrating their success in becoming the first independent playgroup in Wales to receive the **Eco Schools Platinum Award** for long-term achievement, the highest award available from **Eco Schools Wales**.

playgroup utilises in a fantastic way.

This is a great achievement for **Wick and District Playgroup**, along with the successful renewal of their **Fairtrade Schools** status last year. The playgroup would like to thank everyone involved, past and present, in supporting them since their involvement with **Eco Schools**, and special thanks to our little **Eco Warriors**, the wonderful playgroup children!

The assessor had visited the playgroup, spending time looking through all the evidence put in place by the playgroup since joining the **Eco Schools** initiative.

She then spent time talking to the children, who were very knowledgeable about their **Eco Code** and **Eco Job** roles, finishing her visit with a walk around the playgroup wildlife and learning garden, situated in the adjoining churchyard. She returned on March 10 to present them with the award.

The assessor commented on the playgroup's continued enthusiasm for the **Eco Schools** programme, the embedding of the **Eco Schools** topics over the years, the excellent examples of children's work relating to **Eco Schools** activities and the on-going development of the outdoor area that the

The **Eco Schools** programme, delivered by **Keep Wales Tidy**, aims to inspire and empower pupils to be leaders of change in their community.

Keep Wales Tidy's work does just that by working alongside not only schools, but local authorities, community groups and businesses in order to enable individuals to take responsibility.

Through volunteering, **Keep Wales Tidy** aim to make a Wales that is cared for and enjoyed by all.

EO'M

You, too, can help to uncover secrets of the First World War

PEOPLE across Wales are being urged to play their part in a vital campaign that will unlock the secrets of our First World War places and ensure their place in history is recorded for future generations.

This week sees the start of **Home Front Legacy 1914-18**, a campaign on which the **Council for British Archaeology (CBA)**, **Cadw**, **English Heritage**, **Historic Scotland**, and partners across the UK are working together to record the physical remains of the war on home territory.

It will bring together existing records and archives and people's local knowledge to fill in the gaps and for the first time properly record the remains of the war that are still all around us today.

The **First World War** had widespread effects across Wales – no area was left untouched as the whole country geared up to contribute to the war effort. One hundred years on the generation that witnessed it has almost gone, and what we are left with are the physical remains – buildings, landscapes and artefacts.

Now, **Cadw**, the **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales** and the **Welsh Archaeological Trusts** are calling on volunteers from across Wales to step forward to help research, identify and record landscapes, buildings and structures that played a key role during the conflict.

Jon Berry, senior inspector of ancient monuments and archaeology at

Cadw, said: "Archaeology is the study of past society through material culture. This includes landscapes, buildings, structures, earthworks, buried features, artefacts and documents."

"Studying these remains can help us understand the impact of the war on the communities and landscapes of Wales."

"As we prepare to remember the events of 100 years ago there has never been a more appropriate time for communities across the country to get involved in this part of our history. We look forward to working with the other project partners in making **Home Front Legacy** a success."

The **Council for British Archaeology** has developed an online recording toolkit and guidance to help you record **First World War** remains.

Cadw, the **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales** and the **Welsh Archaeological Trusts** are all co-ordinating a range of activities and events relating to the **First World War**. If you would like to become involved or want to know what is happening in your area then contact your local **Welsh Archaeological Trust** to find out more.

Sign up on the **Council for British Archaeology's Home Front Legacy** website to access the online recording toolkit, guidance and resources, including an app for recording sites in the field and a map and photo gallery of newly recorded sites, www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk; Twitter @homefrontlegacy; Facebook.com/HomeFrontLegacy; Flickr.com HomeFrontLegacy.

Poor return for lads!

FISHING has remained poor for the **Seaview Lads** with occasional rays and eels making for larger weights, but too many anglers are weighing in small weights or blanking altogether – credit to the lads for

sticking out this lean spell.

Results: March 2 – first, **P Crook**, 2lb 10oz; second, **S Davies**, 11oz.

February 23 – first, **R Lougher**, 11lb 10.5oz; second **K Salah**, 11lb 8oz; third, **D Crump**, 13oz; third, **G Morgan**, 13oz; fifth, **G Griffiths**, 6.5oz. JC

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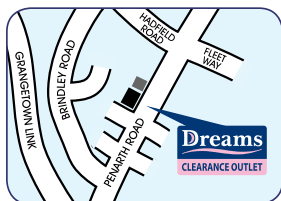


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Go neon for Ty Hafan!

TY HAFAN is asking mums, sisters and aunts to 'go neon' for its hugely popular annual **Midnight Sleep Walk** in Cardiff, on **May 16**.

Hundreds of walkers will again be hitting the streets of Cardiff wearing pyjamas, together with dazzling neon accessories, to raise vital funds for the hospice.

The six-mile midnight walk will start from city's iconic Millennium Stadium, and the event will include entertainment beforehand and free tea and cake for walkers at the end.

Many mums of the children supported by Ty Hafan will be taking part, including Kelly Davies from Ystrad. Kelly and her partner, Damien, were devastated when they were told their daughter may not survive her first few



Kelly Davies with her partner Damien and their daughter Willow

days due to a life-threatening condition called central hypoventilation.

The condition means Willow is unable to breathe by herself, and when she was four weeks old, Kelly and Damien were given the option to switch off her ventilator.

They refused to give up on their daughter and now, aged two, Willow

has beaten all the odds and continues to improve every day.

"She continues to surprise us and is such a little fighter," said Kelly.

Jessica Morgan, events officer at Ty Hafan, said: "The Midnight Sleep Walk is a

fun-filled event that helps raise money for families with life-limited

children. If we have 500 Midnight Sleep Walkers, each raising £100, that's a fantastic £50,000 to help Ty Hafan. So come along and help us raise plenty of money at this year's Midnight Sleep Walk."

To register, visit midnightsleepwalk.co.uk or for more information call 029 2053 2282.

Fresh air and sunshine on a stroll through the park

AFTER weeks of wet weather, on the first predicted sunny weekend, there was no doubt Penarth and District Ramblers were looking forward to getting out in the fresh air to enjoy some sunshine.

Phil's walk in the Margam area attracted a group of 14 who headed out from Margam Park, climbing gradually to the ridgeway above to enjoy great but hazy views of the Bristol Channel and Port Talbot.

Passing the remains of a World War Two defence radar station and descending to Brombil, which once housed a colliery, another climb led to Mynydd Brombil and morning refreshment.

Leaving the rather sad sight of felled conifer plantations with only a few stick-like trees left standing for birds to land on, the group reached Goytre to follow the disused railway track and tramp on to Cwm Wernderi for lunch overlooking the blue waters of the reservoir.

Then, following pretty green tracks through forestry, a tall ladder stile to prevent deer within Margam Park escaping led them back through the park, for a quick visit to the visitor centre on their way back to their start.

The next day, 15 walkers and Jodie the dog were eager for a trip back through industrial history with Jan and John in the peace of the area surrounding Machen, which lies on the River Rhymney.

Around 150 years ago, the peace and tranquillity would have been broken by forge hammers and

belching dirty smoke emanating from Machen Forge, in the race to make and deliver excellent iron.

After visiting Green Row, which originally was housing provided for Machen Forge workers, a saunter along the old disused railway line led to Waterloo, a small village leading them on to the site of the old Pentwyn mine.

This was followed by glorious views across the fields to Machen and Bedwas as they made the return through Coed Cefn-Pwll-Du wood, passing Long Row cottages, built as Victorian workers' housing to drop back to their start.

On March 22, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a nine-mile moderate walk at Wick and St Donat's; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On March 25, the mid-week walk will leave Cogan at 9.30am for a 7.5-mile easy/mod walk in the Bonvilston area; contact Louise on 029 2070 6101.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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**Discovering buried treasure
PRESIDENT Margaret Batten welcomed
members to the March meeting and introduced
the speaker for the evening.**

Mr Don Llewellyn's topic was 'Buried Treasure'.

In 1975 he discovered an enormous collection of receipts, bills of sale, orders and letters in a barn in Penttyrch, all relating to the village store owned by William Evans in the last century.

These papers gave a comprehensive picture of village life.

They showed the wide range of goods sold in the store and the source of these goods, some being imported from as far away as Ireland and America.

They also illustrated the hardships felt by villagers and the generosity shown by the vicar who paid for

MERTHYR MAWR WI NEWS

food for people who were not able to pay themselves. It was a delightful talk about a fascinating discovery and Mr Llewellyn's enthusiasm for local history shone through.

During the business meeting members were reminded of the Federation walk in Ewenny on April 28 and the link meeting on May 13 which will be hosted by Colwinston WI.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2, at 7pm at Ewenny Community Hall, when the speaker will be Rosemary Rowe and the topic 'Port Sunlight'.

This will be followed by a fish and chip supper.

New members are always welcome.

FC

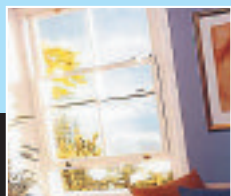
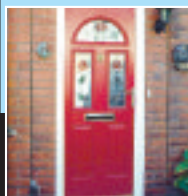


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World Down Syndrome Day, March 21 HOW YOUNGSTERS LIKE CERY'S ARE CHANGING PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS

by TIM
CHAPMAN

ON the eve of World Down Syndrome Day, Friday, March 21, one local mum told The GEM how youngsters with Down syndrome are achieving more than ever before.

When Lisa Morgan from Miskin, near Pontyclun, gave birth to her daughter Cerys five years ago she and her husband Chris were naturally fearful as to what the future might hold. Lisa explained: "You automatically think of the worst case scenario. The first year after Cerys was born was a roller-coaster because we didn't know what sort of learning disability she might have."

"If I'd had a crystal ball at the time, I would not have worried and would have enjoyed that first year so much more. I would have enjoyed my baby simply as an individual who happens to have an additional need."

Cerys is making wonderful progress at home and at Penygawsi Primary School. She is a little slower to learn than some of her friends, but more than makes up for it with her enthusiasm and ability to get on with others.

Lisa stressed: "She lives life 'to the max' and changes people's perceptions. She is very popular and sociable with the children and staff at the school."



Wales' scrum half Mike Phillips (above) is the patron of 'Follow Your Dreams' and last week, as a special treat, the charity arranged for Cerys to watch the team train just before the big match against Scotland.

"It is a mainstream school. She also goes to the local gymnastics class."

"By raising awareness and celebrating World Down's Syndrome Day we hope to change people's opinions and attitudes of what Down's syndrome is and make them see that people with it are actually no different to you or me."

"The date for World Down's Syndrome Day is the 21st day of the third month and was selected to signify the uniqueness of the tripling of the twenty-first chromosome which causes Down's syndrome."

"Anyone can have a baby with Down syndrome - it affects people of all religions, races and backgrounds."

"There is no known cause. It can come from either mum or dad. Children with Down's syndrome only have one thing in common, the extra chromosome '21' gene."

"It is impossible to predict outcomes for any child when they are young but in general, children and young people with Down's syndrome are achieving much more than they ever have done."

Lisa and Chris, who also have a teenage daughter Ffion, are looking at the future with genuine optimism.

Lisa said: "The world is so much better in this regard than it was 40 years ago."

"There is so much more information for people regarding Down syndrome. It is a genetic condition resulting in some level of a learning disability for approximately one in every 1,000 babies in the UK each year."

"We believe the world is Cerys's oyster, as long as she is accepted in the same way as you or me."

Lisa emphasised: "She was a much wanted and longed for second daughter for me and Chris and a much loved little sister to Ffion. She has made our family complete!"

Cerys
with her
mum
Lisa.



The Camelots give the Bosuns helping hand!

THIS week there was only one game in the East Glamorgan Chess League for the Barry club, but next week sees the return of the division four play offs.

In addition, The Vale played round five in the Welsh Premier League. I am sure you have all heard of Murphy's Law. Well, there is now 'Barry's Law'. This occurs when teams travel to Barry to play matches.

They inevitably arrange to bring their strongest possible team for perhaps the only time in the season! It is not clear whether this is because of the ambience of the venue, the quality of the perceived opposition or just the option to earn the match points.

The latest example of 'Barry's Law' took place when the Abergavenny team played the Vale. The Barry Chess Club formed the majority of the Vale team and having already beaten Abergavenny in the Welsh Knock Out Cup, albeit by the narrowest possible margin of bottom board elimination, the Vale hoped to continue their good form in the Welsh Premier League.

We were, however, soon brought down to earth with a bang as we lost three of the matches and only Lee Davis, Nigel Ralphs and Steve Cunliffe picked up draws to give the Abergavenny side their first victory of the season by a grandiose margin of 4.5 - 1.5.

By picking up some points we find ourselves in the unusual position of topping the Welsh Premier League

with only two rounds of matches to go. We have six match points and only top Nidum on individual game points.

Cardigan are on five points with White Knights, Abergavenny and Cardiff all on four points.

It is possible that any one of these six teams could win the league, with only Bridgend Central out of the running.

In the East Glamorgan Chess League, the Camelots played at home to Cardiff Castles. Bill Hewitt made a rare appearance for the Camelots.

In the two years he has been in the club, he has drawn every match. This time, however, he joined Rhys Steele and Ken Hannah in earning victories to give the Camelots a 3-2 win.

This was only the Castles' second defeat of the season and leaves the Barry Bosons on top of the league with a lead of 1.5 points with only three games to go. Still, there are 15 points to play for, so nothing is guaranteed, particularly as the Bosons have a far tougher run of games than the Castles. Indeed, our next game is against the Nelson Rhinos, who themselves harbour hopes of winning the league.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games. For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

Phil Jones

Basil is a champion for Marie Curie hospice



'Diamond award winner' Basil with Gloria Hunniford.

BASIL PRIEST, a long term volunteer at the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth, received a special 'thank you' recently when he attended the Royal Voluntary Service 'Diamond Awards' ceremony in London.

Basil was one of 60 chosen from over 2,000 nominees to receive the Diamond Champion award from the Duchess of Cornwall, at a reception in Lancaster House.

He became a volunteer 26 years ago following the death of his wife at the hospice and spends four days a week there helping all departments.

His duties are varied and include helping with driving, gardening, and maintenance, housekeeping and kitchen work.

"He is always a true gentleman and brightens up the hospice for both staff and patients with his 'can do' attitude," said spokeswoman Karen Jones.

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St John's 'Early Years Unit' celebrates after its Estyn inspection

THE early years unit at St John's School, Porthcawl is celebrating the outcome of its recent Estyn inspection.

The unit is described as a setting that "provides a warm and caring ethos where children

grow in confidence and develop their learning in a safe and supportive environment."

Estyn reported that that children are happy and feel safe in the setting, that they are confident and make independent choices.

Members of staff "share high expectations

of children in both their academic and personal development."

The report also confirms that teaching and learning is good and that "activities engage the children's interest both indoors and outdoors and enable all children to make good progress."

The early years unit is an integral part of St John's School where children from two-and-a-half years of age to 16 benefit from small supportive classes, a family ethos and individual attention.

St John's is a co-educational independent day school located in the village of Newton on the outskirts of Porthcawl. Set in beautiful wooded grounds all pupils participate in a stimulating curriculum and enjoy the many and varied opportunities that St John's has to offer.

For further information or to arrange a free taster day please contact our school office on 01656 783404 or visit our website www.stjohnsschool-porthcawl.com. Alternatively, come along to our open morning on Saturday, March 22 from 9.30am - 1pm. **MW**

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DOG OF THE WEEK

Is there room in your heart for sweet Baby Ray?



HOW COULD ANYONE RESIST BABY RAY'S CHEEKY GRIN?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre...

BABY Ray is a one and a half year old Staffie cross; from being a very worried dog when he first came to us, who was struggling to mix with other dogs, he really has come on in leaps and bounds!

He now mixes very well with other dogs, and might even benefit from living with another well adjusted dog in the home to show him the ropes.

He sometimes forgets he is not a puppy any more, so will need help with his manners from an experienced owner. He will need a few visits from his new owner before going home and, as with all Dogs Trust dogs, we will be on hand to help with training while settling in and for life.

Baby Ray loves his toys and treats, and is a bright boy. He is a real sweetheart once you know him, and will make a very rewarding companion.

If you have room in your home for Baby Ray, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we are open 12 - 4pm every day except Monday. You can also see Baby Ray and some of our other lovely dogs on the website, www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Linda Feagan
(supporter relations officer
Dogs Trust Bridgend)

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Thousands of pounds for tenants is not claimed

MANY tenants are unaware of their right to make claims against landlords; many are worried that raising a claim will result in them having to leave their home, others are worried about the cost.

Newbold Solicitors explain: "A landlord must provide you with a property that is in a good state of repair; that the heating works, there is no damp and there are no structural problems.

"The landlord must also register your bond within 30 days of receiving it from you.

Any failure to do the above will automatically give you the right to claim many thousands of pounds in compensation."

It is unacceptable that tenants in the Vale are living in properties that a landlord would not want his/her own families to live in and tenants should be unwilling to put up with this.

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain public funding (free advice) for bringing the claims, but Newbold Solicitors are able to offer a 'no win, no fee' agreement for some tenants.

We initially assess the claim and then decide if it is worth the tenant pursuing.

If a tenant does have a claim, it can financially ruin landlords. Catherine from Newbold says: "I have made landlords bankrupt over claims successfully brought by tenants.

If tenants bring successful claims then Landlords should consider obtaining their loss

from any negligent managing agent. Agents are still failing to register bonds correctly, failing to deal with repairs, signing legal documents for the landlord and, worse still attending court and representing landlords."

Agents still do not understand their tenant may be in hospital, prison or visiting friends, and may not have ended their tenancy, therefore court orders are required before the landlord is able to change the locks.

Further, landlords still believe they have the right to enter the property with their keys.

If a landlord has lost a claim in court defended by his agent, he may have a claim against his agent for negligence.

An average claim for failing to register a bond is £3,000, whereas disrepair claims can be for many thousands.

The only way housing can be improved is if tenants are willing and able to complain, to force the landlord to make the repairs and cost the landlord money.

The only way a landlord can improve rogue agents, is by claiming off their insurance policies.

But many agents are not covered because they provide legal advice they are not lawfully able to give.

Newbold can help you in these matters from as little as £75 plus VAT, to find out more, call our housing advice line 0330 123 11 31.

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The life and times of a liberated woman (part 1)

by NANCY DAVIDGE

VETERAN GEM community columnist Nancy Davidge (91) begins her fascinating life story.

My story begins in 1923... I was born in the small mining town of Trehafod in the Rhondda Valley.

I was the youngest sibling in my family, with two sisters and one brother.

My maternal grandfather, James Passey, was born in France and came to this country when he was an infant, my great-grandparents settled in the Worcestershire area, then moved to south Wales – where my mother, Catherine Mary, was born.

My father, Alfred Thomas Chard, was born in Bristol. He had an elder brother, John, and three sisters. John eventually

moved to Trehafod to work in the mine.

My father, Alfred, followed two years later – not to work in the mine – but to work as a wheelwright making carts, etc. (He had been taught by his father).

Life became extremely difficult for the majority of people in the Rhondda in the 1920s, and my parents decided to open a fish and chip shop in Porth. A portion of fish would cost two pence and a bag of chips a half-penny. Many people could not afford that and whatever business one is involved with, costs must be covered.

My parents then decided to move to London to try their luck there. In those days, fish and chip businesses thrived more in working class areas, so my par-

ents searched for a suitable area around the East End of London – but my mother could not be persuaded, and they came to the conclusion it would not work.

My father sold all the equipment and moved to Finchley in north London. I remember the fog that enveloped the city and not being able to see more than a yard in front of you!

The bus conductors walked in front of the buses with a lantern to enable the driver to see the pavement.

I can also remember seeing the first airship R101 flying over Finchley, the very first of its kind.

The Germans followed this with the intention of carrying troops, but it exploded on its way back to Germany.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg shines bright for Earth Hour

YSGOL Iolo Morganwg is helping to build a brighter future by supporting WWF's Earth Hour, a spectacular and symbolic global event that focuses the world's attention on our brilliant planet, and the need to protect it.

On March 29, at 8.30pm, millions of individuals, iconic landmarks, and businesses around the world will switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about our planet.

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg's Eco committee will be holding an assembly encouraging children and staff to take part in WWF's Earth Hour. They will also hold a no electricity afternoon with each class taking part in various activities.

Emails will be sent to all parents to encourage them and their children to switch off the lights and possibly other electrical items for the hour during March.

Earth Hour has become a global phenomenon with hundreds of millions of individuals coming together each year. 2013 saw a record-breaking 154 countries join the world's biggest celebration under the stars.

Last year in the UK over 10 million people took part, sending out a united and symbolic message. 4,300 schools signed up equating to over 1.5 million young people helping to celebrate our brilliant planet, and 2,200 young people wrote poems, designed posters or wrote to the Prime Minister in support of renewable energy as part of Earth Hour.

"We are proud to take

part in WWF's Earth Hour once again and our students are excited to be involved with such a great and inspiring event. Everyone can make a difference in saving our planet and children have a key role to play", said Mrs Sarah Tudor from Iolo Morganwg.

Cherry Duggan, WWF-UK's head of schools and youth, said: "It's great to see so many young people celebrating Earth Hour and we're delighted that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is taking part. WWF's Earth Hour is more than just a symbolic hour of darkness. It's a chance for people, both young and old, to come together and send out a global message about protecting our planet.

All of the money raised from Earth Hour 2014 will go towards WWF's vital conservation work in the Mara, Kenya, one of the most spectacular places on Earth and home to some of the world's most iconic wildlife including lions, cheetahs and African elephants.

"This incredible landscape is also central to national and local economies and directly supports the livelihoods of more than one million people. WWF is helping to create a brighter future for the Mara, from helping communities address human-wildlife conflict to providing local wildlife rangers with much needed equipment and training."

Everyone can sign up for WWF's Earth Hour 2014. For more information and to sign up please visit www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour.

Join in the conversation with hashtags #EarthHour and #bebrilliant.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Llangan School

ON March 4, children in years 5/6 travelled to London to visit the Sky studios, where they were invited to present their own news bulletin and weather report.

I am sure the children will remember the experience for a very long time.

Eisteddfod

ON March 7 the whole school celebrated our patron saint David, with the school hall full to capacity with mums, dads and grandparents, and of course me – I have become a part of the fittings!

It never fails to amaze me how quickly the tiny tots are able to participate. The large screen which is situated above the stage is an added asset, enabling the children and visitors to join in.

It was an all-round excellent performance. Maud Langlois-Connors and Thomas O'Connor played the harp and the eisteddfod Bard winner was Orla Galton.

It was also lovely to see former headteacher of the school, Mary Noyes, again playing the

part of piano accompanist for the children performing on stage.

Through my column, I would like to thank the school for the lovely flowers I received on my birthday and the unexpected rendering of 'Happy Birthday' from the audience and staff at the end of the concert, and also headteacher Steve Williams. Thank you all!

Thank you!

MY birthday, which I celebrated on Thursday, March 6, began quite early with the arrival of a beautiful bouquet from all my friends in The GEM office.

When I arrived later, there were so many waiting to wish me happy birthday. It was a lovely start to a very happy day.

I shared my birthday with a friend who is also a member of the Young At Heart Club, so it was a double celebration with a lovely birthday cake and home-made Welsh cakes.

In the evening, I enjoyed a meal at the Red Fox in Penllyn with my family. My grandson, whose work takes him to many countries, made it just in time!

A chance to make friends

IF you are 50 or over, there is a chance to meet new friends and take part in activities at Coychurch Community Café in Williams Memorial Hall, every Thursday from 10am-1pm.

Run by Age Connects Morgannwg – as part of the Big Lottery-funded Community Companions – befriending for over 50s programme, activities include raffles, book swaps, volunteering opportunities, information and advice sessions and nail cutting services.

For further information, call Kerry Langdon on 01443 490666.



Pictured, above, are staff nurse Tiffany Ashcroft-Morgan, advanced urology nurse practitioner Alison Townsend and unit manager Gaynor Newton.

Cancer clinic gets vote of confidence from patients

A CANCER clinic at Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend has won high praise from patients.

The surveillance flexible cystoscopy clinic is held once a week in the hospital's urology unit to monitor people who have previously been diagnosed with bladder cancer.

ABMU's patient experience unit conducted a satisfaction survey of patients, who travel to the clinic from as far afield as Neath Port Talbot.

"Their response was overwhelmingly positive, with all aspects of the clinic highly praised and very few suggestions for improvements made," a spokesman said.

One patient, Gaynor Hopkins from Port Talbot, said: "Everyone is very friendly. They know how to speak to

patients, to make them feel at ease. It's a really good service."

Bladder cancer is more common than people realise – and more common in men than in women – with smoking one of the main risk factors.

The clinic is led by advanced urology nurse practitioner Alison Townsend, who explained: "The clinic is for people who have been diagnosed with and had surgery for bladder cancer.

"If we discover they have a small new tumour we can often treat it at the same time through a procedure called diathermy, which is using an electric current to burn off the tumour."

The clinic is held every Monday afternoon and sees at least 10 patients each week. Questionnaires were sent out to 50 patients, with 38 responding.

Heroic Lollipop Lady's moving talk at Senedd



ABOVE; Karin Williams with Jane Hutt and Heather Stevens of the Waterloo Foundation at the St David Awards last week in the Wales Millennium Centre.

RHOOSE 'Lollipop Lady' Karin Williams who received an award for bravery at the St David Awards spoke movingly of her work, reported Vale AM Jane Hutt.

"She has supported and protected pupils for so many years with the ultimate act of bravery on that day when she put her pupils' safety before her own. She also spoke of her thanks to all those at the University Hospital of Wales, who provided wonderful treatment and care."

DADS' TEAM GETS READY FOR CHARITY CHALLENGE



FOOTBALL matches throughout the world are watched by millions of people so that they can see their 'heroes' for 90 minutes.

The footballing heroes of 'Ty Hafan Dads FC', however, have not earned this title by scoring 25 goals a season, but by supporting their life-limited children, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The team, made up of fathers all united by the same tragic circumstance, have been busy training for their first charity football match against 'Dan Evans FC', at Jenner Park in Barry, on Sunday, March 23, with a 3pm kick off.

Paul Fisher, a Ty Hafan play work-

er who is leading the dads' group at the hospice, said: "We rely massively on donations from the public, and that's why for this particular football match, the support is much more important than the score line."

"It's going to be a fantastic day out, so why not come along and support the dads' team whilst raising vital funds for Ty Hafan?"

He continued: "Not only can you watch the big match, but also try your luck at the crossbar challenge, a raffle, and enjoy a junior football match at half time."

"Show your support for this fantastic team and charity by coming along and becoming Ty Hafan Dads FC's home crowd!"

ABOVE: Ty Hafan Dads FC will play at Jenner Park this Sunday, March 23.

RIGHT: Local MP Alun Cairns is shown with Mark Roscrow and Shaun Graham of Llantwit Major FC, and PC Colin Malone.



Football club and police are united to fight vandalism

OFFICIALS at Llantwit Major FC and local police are joining forces – to combat a spate of break-ins and vandalism.

MP Alun Cairns, who was contacted by the club to set up a meeting with local police, said:

"In recent months, dugouts have been upturned by youths and the shutters on the club's main stand have been repeatedly damaged at considerable cost to the football club."

"Llantwit Major FC plays a vital role in the local community, running teams for children

aged eight and above all the way through to senior level. This is a well-run and supported club and I was extremely disappointed to hear that they have been targeted in this way with persistent break-ins and attacks by vandals."

"Let's be clear, these mindless attacks are by a small minority of individuals who are letting their local community down."

"However, as a result of our meeting, the club will now be co-ordinating activity with local police. Local officers assured us that they will be monitoring the area closely with additional patrols and are determined to stamp out unruly behaviour," he said.

Melinda offers the personal touch

A LOCAL designer whose jewellery is sported by Princess Beatrice, Little Mix and Bridget Mendes, recently opened a studio shop in Cowbridge under her own name Melinda Mulcahy.

Though not entirely a new brand, Melinda has been online for a decade and has been a successful partner of internet giant NotOnTheHighStreet.com for over six years.

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Best known as the original designer of the 'Daddy Rocks' plectrums, Melinda's jewellery and personalised creations are seen globally.

There are many collections to choose from and some capture a feeling of exotic travels with vibrant gemstones and pearls.

Little mementos hold meaningful messages to treasure for a lifetime.

Her hands-on approach to the

business means she turns her hand from making the jewellery to creating an easy to use, fully functional website with stylish photographs and recently introduced a Click & Collect service especially for local customers.

Due to a growing global market, in line with current trends and demand, a new redesigned website is due to be launched in April. For further information, visit www.melindamulcahy.com.

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JAIL SENTENCE FOR PENSIONER AFTER SEX ASSAULT ON WOMAN

A PENSIONER has been jailed for two years, three months, for carrying out a sex attack on a woman in her 40s.

The victim was said by prosecutor Tim Evans to be "mortified and embarrassed" by what occurred.

Noel Hay, a 68-year-old married man, of Glan-yr-Afan, Pencoed, admitted a charge of sexual assault.

He had earlier made an unsuccessful application to change his plea to not guilty.

In August, said Mr Evans, Hay touched her intimately. She told him: "Please stop, I am in a relationship."

When arrested, Hay said: "No comment" to all questions, but he made a statement blaming the victim.

She later stated that when she thought about the incident, she felt sick, was extremely depressed, and suffered flashbacks.

Hay was said to have a conviction in 1989 for indecently assaulting a child, and had received a suspended sentence.

Hay's counsel, Stephen Jeary, said: "There is no medical reason as to why he should not spend time in a prison cell. Things would be difficult, as he takes a great deal of medication."

"The offence was opportunistic, and the woman suffered no physical injury."

Mr Jeary said that though a message had to be sent out that people

Crown Court report by AJ SICLUNA

should not behave in such a way, a suspended sentence should be passed.

Judge Neil Bidder QC said Hay had shown no remorse or insight into what he had done and was completely blind to the effect of what he did.

The Judge said he had not said he was sorry, and his application to change his plea was hopeless.

He said the victim had earlier attended court and was expected to give evidence.

"It was an extremely frightening and unpleasant experience for her. You satisfied your desires without caring for her feelings."

There was no doubt, said the Judge, that he had to pass immediate sentence. He ordered that on release, Hay register as a sex offender for 10 years, and he was directed to pay a victim surcharge of £120.

The Judge warned him: "If you commit another sexual offence, you will go to prison for a longer term than this one."

AM's call for 'clarity' on planning decisions

THE Conservatives are calling for the Welsh Government to make the planning decision system "clear and transparent".

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, has called for "greater clarity" over circumstances where Welsh Government Ministers can 'call-in' locally determined planning applications.

He said: "In recent months, I have seen several occasions in the Vale where residents have been left confused and frustrated by the lack of clarity over when Ministers can and cannot call in a planning application."

"I have asked the Minister to issue clearer guidance in this area, to ensure that the public understand the process and can understand why in certain circumstances there is ministerial intervention, and in others none."

"If people do not believe that the system is clear and transparent, then they will find it hard to have faith in it."

"The recent decision to develop in Wenvoe, left many locals extremely frustrated, not just because of the result, but because they did not understand why the Minister refused to call the application in for consideration, when an essentially identical proposal was called in a year earlier."

Help with changes to Housing Benefit



Working-age people living in social housing now receive Housing Benefit based on the number of people in their household and the size of their accommodation. **Pensioners are not affected by this change.**

This change helps families who live in overcrowded accommodation or on waiting lists to find a new home. People who rent from private landlords already get Housing Benefit in this way, and this makes it fair for everyone.

If you are affected, you should have heard from your council.

There is support to help you manage these changes, including:

- thinking about downsizing or 'home swapping' to a different sized property
- finding a job or increasing your hours can make you better off
- applying to your council for a Discretionary Housing Payment.

Find out more about all your options at www.gov.uk/housing-benefit or talk to your council.



Help gyda newidiadau i Fudd-dal Tai



Mae pobl o oedran gweithio sy'n byw mewn tai cymdeithasol yn cael Budd-dal Tai yn seiliedig ar y nifer o bobl sydd yn eu cartref a maint eu llety. **Ni chaiff pensïynwyr eu heffeithio gan y newid hwn.**

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I gael mwy o wybodaeth ewch i www.gov.uk/housing-benefit neu siaradwch â'ch cyngor.



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Adapting to Housing Benefit changes: ADVICE ON HOMESWAPPING

THERE have been changes to Housing Benefit so that working-age people living in social housing now receive Housing Benefit based on the number of people in their household and the size of their accommodation.

This change, known as the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy, will help families living in overcrowded accommodation and those on waiting lists to find new homes. This system already applied to people renting privately so now all tenants are treated in the same way.

If you are affected, the amount of Housing Benefit you receive may have reduced, but there is a range of support to help you adapt to these changes and find a property that is better suited to your needs.

HomeSwap Direct is a national home-swap scheme which allows you to see details of every available social housing property, whether this is just round the corner or somewhere else in the country. There are thousands of homes out there and moving can just be a click away.

Swapping your home through your council can provide a simple way of finding properties in your area that are the appropriate size for you and your family. Search with your postcode at: www.gov.uk/apply-swap-homes-council.

You can speak to your landlord to see if they have any suitable properties available, or a neighbour that could benefit from switching homes too.

Finding a job or increasing your hours can also make you financially better off and help make up the difference in rent. Use the Benefits Adviser tool to see



how you could be better off in work: www.gov.uk/benefits-adviser.

Jobcentre Plus can help you find work, providing valuable training and work experience which can help you get back into the workplace. You can also see thousands of job vacancies using Universal Jobmatch and create an online profile to get alerts about jobs automatically matched to your CV. Just visit: www.gov.uk/jobsearch.

As well as increasing your income, you may be eligible for financial support in both the short and long term to help with your housing costs. Speak to your council about the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme if you need more help: www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council.

Find out more about all your options at www.gov.uk/housing-benefit.

To start your free and easy search, visit one of these websites:

www.homeswapper.co.uk

www.houseexchange.org.uk

www.abritas.co.uk/housing-options-mobility/mutual-exchange.aspx

www.locata.org.uk

If you don't have access to the internet, speak to your landlord for help.



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required. Straight away I searched for office space in Penarth and The Coach House came up.

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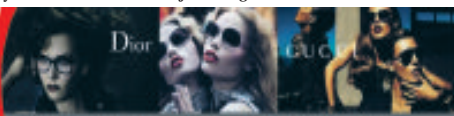
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'There's more to life than pink and white'

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I first qualified in 2001 with creative nail design; I then added Harmony Hard Gel and Coloured Gelish to my skills.

I am an Associate Member of the Guild of Nail Technicians. It is my belief that 'there is more to life than pink and white'.

My favourite technique is Bridal Nail Design. Look for me on Facebook and send your design, and I will do my best to replicate it.

If you are a nail biter,

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Angela on 07733 153217.

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Angela, Dawn Clinic, 12 York Place, Barry.

Mobile: 07733 153 217

Pilates classes in Barry

CLASSES take place at St Nicholas Hall and St Francis Millennium Centre, both in Barry.

Pilates classes are led by Sharon Sylvester, who is a qualified Pilates teacher and also a practicing osteopath working in Barry.

The classes are friendly, calm and welcoming. They are small, allowing each person a little individual attention from Sharon. Classes are available for complete beginners up to intermediates.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility, suppleness and better

posture. Beginners classes are held in Barry on Monday at 10.30am, 5.30pm and Fridays 7.15pm.

Intermediates are catered for on Mondays at 9.15am and on Fridays 6pm. Sharon is

starting a new Cardiff class, beginning in Pontcanna on Thursdays at 10am.

To join, or for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 85606 – or see

www.barrypilates.co.uk.

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Call Jennie on 01446 710386 for more details.

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is right here..!

THE way forward in skin care has arrived at Sunkissed.

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Ultra-Sound and Light Therapy can be used in conjunction with these two elements to give a truly remarkable effect.

These treatments will be customised to your individual needs and can be taken singularly or as a course, for a long term effect.

Our new machine complements our Dermalogica range, creating enhanced results. Prices, lengths of treatment and more in depth descriptions of treatments can be found on Facebook or by contacting the salon.

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The First Step to a Better Smile

Pilates offer life change...

THE Llanrcarfan & District Community Association wanted to take full advantage of their newly-

refurbished Community Hall, following grants from the Vale Council and Creative Rural Communities.

Pilates can be carried out by all age groups, so with the help of a grant from Sport Wales, again with support from the Vale Council, we were able to attract a highly qualified instructor, Svetla Sagewolf, who trained at the Bulgarian National Fitness Academy, and since 2008 has worked with groups and individuals in south Wales.

Pilates offer a complete change of life and fitness and we welcome anybody who is interested to join our class, every Thursday at 1pm in Llanrcarfan Community Hall.

Please contact Sue on 01446 781453, for further information.

Pilates Classes

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Funding formula sees the Vale missing out

IN recent weeks, Vale residents have been hit with one of the biggest council tax increases across the UK – a rise of 4.5 per cent, with inflation running at just 1.9 per cent.

Members of the Vale Council cabinet have admitted that the blame for this hike lies squarely with the Welsh Government. This, however, is of little consolation to local residents.

A pensioner struggling to make ends meet or a family facing additional pressures aren't interested in blame; they are simply worried about where the extra payments will come from.

In a recent article, I highlighted the fact that the Treasury has made money available to the Welsh Government to freeze council taxes in Wales, as in England.

Sadly, instead of protecting residents from inflation-busting increases, they opted to prioritise other policies instead.

I find it difficult to understand why they prefer to spend £52m on an airport, together with a further loan of £10m or to finance an £18.5m refurbishment of their Cardiff Bay offices.

In fairness to the Vale Council, they are underfunded significantly by the Welsh Government.

Over recent years, there have been several revisions of the funding formula which allocates money from Cardiff Bay to local councils. Each and every time, the Vale has lost out.



Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers

As Vale residents, we receive £202 less per person from the Welsh Government than our Cardiff neighbours, and £226 less than those in Bridgend.

The gap has grown almost every year.

That said, imposing one of the highest council tax rises in the UK on Vale residents was the wrong thing to do.

When I launched the cross-party 'Fair Funding for the Vale' campaign, I hoped that all parties in Barry and the rural Vale would work together in the interests of local residents.

I was devastated last December when both parties in the Vale cabinet refused to support the campaign. I was

told by the councillors that they couldn't campaign against their own party!

This is in itself outrageous and shows that they put their party (or personal) interest ahead of our local interest.

Yet, when it came to voting against their party policy to merge councils (and run the risk of losing their roles), they were happy to support the Conservative motion that was against the plan.

As it stands, it seems that the Welsh Government want to revive the old South Glamorgan authority, which would be an unmitigated disaster for the Vale.

There may be local authorities in Wales that could benefit from joining with neighbouring councils, but I worry that our towns and villages would be submerged by a 'Greater Cardiff' region; leading to increased development on our green spaces and even tougher competition for already scarce resources.

If the Welsh Government is confident that this is the best way forward then why won't they offer Vale residents a vote?

Most worrying, however, is that this could be used as an excuse to delay a revision to the funding formula that we desperately need.

This being the case, we face being submerged by Cardiff in the years ahead and continue to being underfunded.

This cannot go on.

Diabetes fundraiser on Island tomorrow

THERE is still time to support a fundraiser at the Conservative Club on Barry Island tomorrow night, Friday, March 21, at 7pm.

Determined Barry mum Rebecca Jones, aged 23, is organising the event and the proceeds will go to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in the quest for a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

Her little son Dylan has the disease and when he was 15 months old, in October 2012, he almost fell into a coma until doctors worked out what was wrong with him.

Dylan was suffering from DKA – diabetic ketoacidosis. He has now been put on a hospital trial using an insulin pump.

Rebecca said: "As a mum, my dream is that

one day he is cured."

Tickets for the event are £5 and people can pay on the door or contact Rebecca by email at animeangel0@yahoo.co.uk.

Rebecca said: "We have a dance group and DJ, and now a very talented local singer who has donated her time to entertain everyone."

"Its going to be a great night with entertainment, raising money for a great cause, but as soon as the raffle is done I expect people to let their hair down and enjoy the rest of the night."

Rebecca has also set up a 'justgiving' page if readers would like to donate to it: www.justgiving.com/Rebecca-Jones40; or text GIVE91 their donation (£1-£10) to 70070.

For more information on the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, go to: www.jdrf.org.uk



ABOVE:
Rebecca Jones and her son Dylan.

OBITUARY Glynne Clay, St Hilary

WELSH horse racing has lost one of its greatest supporters with the death of Glynne Clay, a former point-to-point rider, owner and trainer who for many years was chairman, was associated with Chepstow Racecourse.

Glynne, who lived at St Hilary in the Vale, was a stockbroker by trade.

He joined the board at Chepstow Racecourse in 1974 and as a permit holder, his biggest success was probably with *Tirconail*, which won the George Duller Hurdle at Cheltenham.

However, his favourite horse was *Sixer*, who was usually partnered by Peter Warner. *Sixer* won a number of races at Chepstow and was a good runner-up to *Deblin's Green* in the 1973 Welsh Grand National.

Welshman Taffy Salaman was in the saddle on that occasion.

Around the same time, I recall his *Rookery* winning a controversial match for the members' race at

the Monmouthshire at Llanvayple. *Rookery* finished a distance ahead of the long odds-on favourite *Appianky*.

Born on April 5, 1931, Glynne first took out a permit to train back in 1959.

But before then, he had ridden his own horses in point-to-points and two which I recall which carried his red and yellow and blue hoops colours were *Lothair* and the grey *Snowcem*, which was a great favourite of mine back then.

Glynne, if my memory serves me right, also commented at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-to-Point at St Hilary on a number of occasions.

He always had time for a chat when at a point-to-point, and would say to me, words to the effect of: "Don't forget to mention so and so in your report."

When he knew I was publishing a book about Welsh point-to-point racing, back in the 1980s, he was the very first person to order a copy.

He supported Llancarfan's Evan Williams when Evan first started out as a trainer, and had several horses with him.

BRIAN LEE

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY SPRING HAS SPRUNG, BUT BEES NEED OUR HELP

SPRING is definitely here – the colonies in all of the apiaries have come through the winter and are now very active; much pollen collecting is under way, and a variety of colours indicate that a selection of blooms is on offer.

The feeding of some colonies is still being done using a specialist bee Sugar Dough, this has a constituency similar to the icing on cakes, but it has a much better nutritional value.

Interestingly, the bees at the Aberthaw Power station are the most active and although they have some winter stores in hand, they have a preference for the sugar dough and consume it rapidly.

Should the present and somewhat pleasant conditions prevail, the first brief inspection of each colony can be considered.

This will give me an insight regarding colony health and I will, of course, look to changing any hive items – roofs, floors, combs, even stands, when I do my first in-depth inspection.

What will I be looking for when I carry out this first inspection? Well, I need to see healthy bees to start with, then I would like to observe eggs, then larvae and sealed brood.

What is sealed brood? It is eggs that have

hatched; the larvae are the product of these eggs and they in their turn are sealed into their cells (with a wax capping) and will eventually emerge as new bees ready to carry out the demands of the colony.

Do I have to see the queen? Not really, the very fact that there are eggs and larvae on view tell me that she is there.

Despite all the wild weather that has been our lot, many of the beekeepers are reporting that their colonies have survived; however, last year started well, but spring kind of disappeared.

This led to a vast amount of colonies failing to get the start they required and although we did have a summer of sorts, the bees had to be fed to help them survive.

New beekeepers are waiting to start; we have bees, so let's hope we get reasonable weather to enable them to get some hands-on experience and, of course, eventually their own bees.

All of the pollinating insects are in need of assistance, we as a species (humans) can and must do our bit to help them out, it is our use of the planet and its resources that is causing many of their problems.

We can do it... We must do it!

HAROLD WILLIAMS



Reunion will follow photo of Jenner Park School

IRECENTLY enclosed a school photograph which included my late wife Marilyn Davies (nee Fox). I now know from her fellow pupils that it was taken at Jenner Park School in 1951.

I was fortunate enough to receive seven responses and the people who contacted me are keen to have a reunion. We may even be able to recreate the old photograph as part of the get-together!

If there is anyone else shown in the picture who has not yet contacted me, I would be delighted to hear from them.

I can be contacted on 01446 738130.

Mr Donald Davies, Barry

PACT meetings

ILLTYD PACT, Highlight Park Community Centre on March 31 at 7.15pm.
Porthkerry Road on March 20 at 7pm.

COURT PACT, The HUB, YMCA, Court Road Barry on March 20 at 6pm.

CADOC PACT, the Palmerston Community and Learning Centre on March 26 at 7pm.

DYFAN PACT, Highlight Park Community Centre on March 31 at 7.15pm.
SULLY PACT, The Cricket Pavilion, Sully today (March 20) at 6.30pm.
ST BRIDES PACT, St Brides' Church Hall on March 24 at 6.30pm.
COFFEE & CHAT, Walston Castle public house, Wenvoe on March 25 at 11am.

Characters straight out of fiction!



NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB: Accents and Squiggles

ARE you efficient? Efficiency means doing things with less effort or getting more done with the same effort.

It is not simply working hard. No matter how hard you work, spending an hour on a 10-minute task is not being efficient.

If it's fun, that's fine. If time is short: efficiency matters.

Any task involves four vital stages: knowing what you want to do; knowing that it can be done; knowing how to do it and getting it done.

Generally, you know what you want to do. Unless it is really odd, you can be sure that it can be done. Finding out how to do it can be challenging. The doing it is up to you.

Whereas common symbols are already on the keyboard (£, \$, %, & and €); Nic has occasional need to use accents and 'squiggles' such as a tilde (~), cedilla (as in ç), caret or circumflex (â) that have no dedicated key. He showed us how to cope in Microsoft Word.

The long-winded way to insert a symbol is to select the Insert menu, click Symbol and browse in the dialogue box to the special character you want among the many that you do not.

Select it and click on Insert at the foot of the box.

The common fonts such as Ariel and Times New Roman have a large range of special characters, so seeking just the one you want might take a little while.

There again, an obscure font might not have the special character within its character set at all. If you can type in a foreign language, then you can set that language for the document and Word will be more helpful.

This is a chance for keyboard shortcuts to

make life so much easier – and you more efficient – if you know the ones you expect to need.

Nic demonstrated some common ones for Word 2010. Versions of Word have some variations, but these, or similar will work.

Hold down Ctrl+Shift, then ^ (caret). Typing a vowel will give â, ê, î, ô or û as in gâteau.

Hold down Ctrl then ' (apostrophe) and a, e, i, o, u will produce á, é, í, ó, ú as in risqué.

The grave accent key is below the escape key. Pressing it followed by a vowel will give à, è, ì, ò and ù. (For some versions you need to press Ctrl+.)

Ctrl+Shift, then : (colon) will give ä, ë, ï, ö, ü.

Hold down Ctrl+, (comma) to get ç as in façade.

Ctrl+Shift, then ~ (tilde) will provide ñ as in España.

Although the keyboard shortcut has to be done for each character it is more efficient than the longwinded way. You can make your own custom list for the ones that will be useful to you.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 25 at All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm. More on digital photography by Guy. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

Swimming clubs' gifts

Mayor of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, recently presented Barry Swimming Club, Penarth Swimming Club and The Barry Beavers Disability Swimming club with swimming goggles for their members.

The goggles were unsold stock in the leisure centres, prior to the council's facilities being operated by Parkwood Community Leisure.

Coun Wilkinson said: "All of the clubs are voluntary organisations, operated by volunteers for the benefit of residents in the Vale.

"They all provide opportunities for young people to maintain a physically active lifestyle which I consider extremely important."

World Book Day was another great success at Bryn Hafren school.

Both teachers and pupils have participated in lots of book-related competitions throughout the week. There was an array of characters in the costume competition from the Mad Hatter to Oompa Loompas!

A big congratulation to the overall winners: Lucia Orchard 7ND, Ella Evans 8KS and Brooklyn Dyer 8NT. The staff prize was won by Mrs Pullin.

The LRS also ran a competition looking for the weirdest places to read a book.

The winner was Olivia Cope, year-13 who was spotted reading up a wall in a corridor.

All pupils were given book tokens to be spent in the High Street as well. Mrs Morgan, LRC Manager said: "It's lovely to see everybody talking about reading and getting excited about books."

Emma Robinson and Lucy Harfoot, 9MS



Helping to fight dementia stigma



ABOVE:

Actress Ruth Jones with Jane Hutt and Coun Lis Burnett.

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt AM is helping to remove the stigma surrounding dementia by pledging to become one of Wales' first Dementia Friends.

She joined actress Ruth Jones MBE, and AMs from across the country, for the launch of Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay.

Dementia Friends aims to give people in Wales a better understanding of dementia and the little things that could make a difference to people living with the condition.

Penarth hockey club stagger to a defeat

DESPITE having just a single game at the weekend, Penarth Hockey Club managed to give members of both its 1st and 2nd XIs a run-out against a strong Cardiff & Met side at Sophia Gardens.

With a large chunk of their regular squad absent to toast impending nuptials, Penarth's 1st XI was forced into drafting in members of the club's second team to help make up the numbers for what promised to be a tough encounter with promotion-chasing Cardiff & Met 'B'.

The home side, comprising mainly students from the city's Metropolitan University, are proving to be table-topping Lydney's only opposition in the push for season honours, and appeared to be even stronger than usual as Penarth rocked up with an under-strength side.

Right from the first whistle, the Cardiff team imposed itself on the game and, despite some determined resistance from Penarth, took an early lead following a swift build-up. Although the visitors replied in short order, as a fierce cross from Phil Lane was inadvertently diverted past his own keeper by one of the Cardiff defenders, it proved to be a rare bright spot for the Vale side.

Cardiff were quickly back in control and enjoyed one of those afternoons where every touch in the 'D' brought some sort of reward, either a penalty corner or – on the majority of occasions – another goal.

Despite the best efforts of centre backs Joe Wells and Tom Haran, the half-time score of 5-1 effectively ended the game as a contest, although Penarth emerged from the interval determined to win the second half.

With stand-in captain Chris Baker belatedly pushing forward after sacrificing his scoring record to fill the right

half position in the first period, Penarth were able to exert a little more pressure on the Cardiff end, but the hosts continued to enjoy the better fortune in front of goal.

Although Penarth goalkeeper Mark Harris produced a virtuoso display of shot-stopping to deny Cardiff another hatful of goals, he was still beaten a further three times as the home side overwhelmed the visiting defence to make the final score a rather unflattering 8-1.

Despite the result, Penarth remain fourth overall, and will no doubt welcome two final fixtures against more lowly opposition as they attempt to repel Cardiff & Met's 'C' team in the final standings.

This weekend sees the 1st XI in action against Whitchurch 'B' at Barry Sports Centre, while the 2nd XI return after a weekend off looking to avenge a surprise defeat by the same opposition's 'E' side earlier in the season.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the Juniors in action between 6-7pm and Senior between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens at: d.stevens81@hotmail.co.uk. CL



MEET ONLY FOOLS & HORSES STAR... John Challis
FOR AN INTIMATE EVENING OF AMUSING ANECDOTES

ST-DONATS ARTS CENTRE Friday 28 March, 7.30pm

£15 / £13 conc

www.stdonats.com // 01446 799 100

Enjoy an intimate evening with John Challis, one of the nation's greatest comedy actors, best known as Boycie in BBC1's Only Fools and Horses.

In this one-off show the national treasure will reveal secrets from the set with stories and anecdotes from his dazzling career. Having worked with some of the biggest names in show business, he'll be spilling the beans about Only Fools and Horses, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Oliver Reed, George Best, Dr Who, Coronation Street and much more.

Brownies celebrate their 100th birthday!



BROWNIES are celebrating a big birthday this year – having reached the grand old age of 100.

As part of Girlguiding, Brownies provide fun, friendship and excitement for girls aged 7 to 10 years old. Dinas Powys and Llandough Rainbows and Guides joined the Brownies to celebrate in style at an event hosted by Murchfield Community Cinema in Dinas Powys. The afternoon was filled with popcorn, ice-cream and lots of laughs. There was also a special guest to cut the cake, Chief Commissioner for Wales, Felicity Ladbrooke.

The afternoon was also a fundraiser for one of the District's Young

Leaders. Cerys has been chosen to go on an International trip to work on The Book Bus in Africa. She ran the sweet stall and would like to thank the following for their kind donations:

Morrisons – Cardiff Bay, Morrisons – Barry, Tesco – Penarth Marina, Tesco Express – Dinas Powys, Mark Griffith Family Butcher – Dinas Powys, Hobbycraft – Leckwith, The Murch Pharmacy – Dinas Powys, A Class Apart – Dinas Powys, and other contributors who wished to remain anonymous.

For more information about Guiding in Dinas Powys and Llandough or the Murchfield Community Cinema, contact murchfieldcommunityassoc@gmail.com

Council cabinet briefs youngsters on perils of politics!

THE Vale Council cabinet have met with Vale Youth Forum (VYF) to discuss the council's first youth cabinet and youth mayor elections.

Cabinet members, including the Leader of the council Neil Moore, participated in a 'Cabinet Carousel' question and answer session with the VYF members.

They shared knowledge of local government politics to pre-

pare youngsters for the elections at the end of March.

The new youth cabinet and youth mayor will give young people a real voice on issues under consideration by the council's cabinet, scrutiny committees and full council.

Youth cabinet members will work directly with cabinet members on the council, and will contribute to consultations across council services.

Cabinet member for children's services,

Magic of Dylan brought to life

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

TO be asked as a WI 'hack' to pen an appraisal of Dylan Thomas is to write from the ridiculous to the sublime!

This Englishwoman living in Wales grows ever more appreciative of Dylan Thomas, his strong, intense writing, his astute perception of life and people – especially Welsh – and his superb descriptions and imaginative use of words.

Visiting speaker to the monthly meeting was Alan Jones, of Porthcawl, an enthusiastic, a knowledgeable devotee, with words and pictures of the great Welsh poet who, alas, did go gentle into that good night far too early.

Short his life may have been, good or otherwise, but it was a life with a glass not merely half full, but surely a double measure, and a life which became renowned across the globe.

Eli Jenkins, Polly Garter, Mrs Organ Morgan are probably as well known from USA to Australia as Laugharne or Ogmore. May his memory endure in this centenary year to his bi-centenary and beyond.

President Meryl James welcomed present and new members; she brought to members' attention other business including outings, craft meetings, sport, the annual council meeting in Port Talbot on May 7, and the centenary scrapbook competition.

The next meeting is on April 10 at St Brides Major church hall at 7.15pm. Speaker/entertainer, Lorna Pearson, poet and singer.

Brenda Meredith.

Out and About with The GEM

The Vale Show appoints new General Secretary



SARAH JENNER.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society has announced the appointment of Sarah Jenner as its next General Secretary.

Sarah has always resided in the area and now lives in Penlllyn with her husband, Ceri, their two daughters, and a growing menagerie of horses, ponies, dogs and cats.

Sarah explained: "The show has always been a highlight of the summer, our children and their friends now look forward to the show in the same way as I did as a little girl when it was held a stone's throw from where I live now."

"I am really excited to join the huge team who work so hard to organise and set up the Vale Show, and I am conscious that I have a lot to learn from Nicola Gibson during this hand-over year".

Sarah will take up her post in September 2014, when Nicola steps down after 16 years as General Secretary. Nicola's last show is set to be one of the best with a host of new developments, in addition to the popular attractions of home produce and KC reg dog shows, a craft marquee over 200 trade stands,

plus the popular sheep shearing, livestock and horse classes.

The big development this year is the new poultry show, supported by Maes Glas Vets. Callum Griffiths from Ynysybwll is organising this marquee and it promises to be a great event. Schedules for all the classes will be on line from May (www.valeofglamrogan-show.co.uk/).

The food court will have a different look this year; it is now being run by Myfanwy Edwards (valeglamfarmersmarket@gmail.com) and will be supported by the Vale Farmers' Markets.

There will also be a revamped horticultural marquee, run by Gail Wintle. Gail's father, Phillip Vowles, is a well known champion giant vegetable grower and he has offered seeds to anyone wishing to enter the giant vegetable classes, email, gailvegshow@gmail.com

The main ring entertainment will be provided by the Jason Smythe Adrenalin Tour, presenting a thrilling motorcycle attraction in the main ring at 4pm.

This year's show will be held on August 13, at Ffnon Castle. More details at www.vale-ofglamroganshow.co.uk or 01446 710099; email vale.show@btinternet.co.uk

Barry gears up for art festival

THE third Annual Barry Arts Festival has been announced. The Barry Arts Festival 2014 runs from Saturday, July 26 to Saturday, August 2.

This year's festival builds on the success of the previous two years and promises to be the biggest and best yet with the biggest names locally and nationally from rock, folk, drama, dance, comedy and the visual arts.

The festival kicks off with a parade through the town centre and the parade culminates at a secret location with an event that will blow your socks off!

Barry Arts Festival 2014 is looking for enthusiastic groups or individuals to become involved in the festival this year. If you want to publicise your music, drama or art then join us – we are stronger together!

To contact us, email: BarryArts2014@yahoo.co.uk. Twitter: @BarryArtsFest.

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

FIRST OF THE YEAR!

Saturday March 22 - Llantion Hall (behind the library) 10.00am - 3pm

Lots of lovely things to see and yummy snacks too!

Enquiries: contact Peta Shields E.peta@btinternet.co.uk

Mia just loves to have fun!

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for dogs at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

MIA is a two year old Lab cross, a super girl, who really loves attention and is very keen to please, which makes training a dream.

She needs careful introductions with other dogs, but once they have met, she plays nicely. We will work with new owners

to help them continue the training work we have implemented with Mia, which we are sure will make her a really wonderful companion.

She is housetrained, can be left alone for a few hours, and can live with children of 11+. Mia is full of fun, and is just waiting for the right person to come and snap her up!

If you can give Mia a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12 – 4pm every day except Monday. You can see Mia and lots of our other lovely dogs on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

LINDA FEAGAN (Supporter Relations Officer Dogs Trust Bridgend)



Our GEM Facebook winner for March 13 is: **Shawn Murtough**

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was: **ALAN CARR**

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their prize with...

Vale Digital Aerials

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/glamorgangem



Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Lent talks
HOLLYWOOD films are the inspiration behind Lent talks and discussions at All Saints Church, Penarth on Wednesdays from noon to 1.45pm, or 7.15pm to 9pm.

March 26, Shadowlands, April 2, The Life of Pi.
Citizens launch
ON March 10, the first meeting of Barry Citizens was held in St Helens Church Hall, Wyndham Street.

The group is the local hub of an organisation spreading all the way from the Vale, Cardiff, the whole of Wales, and ultimately to all UK citizens.

The object is for the members of participating organisations to receive training, to reach out to people in their community and listen to concerns on issues of local social justice.

Essentially, Barry Citizens has no agenda of its own but relies on feedback from local people to identify local problems and then to attempt to solve them.

Local organisations such as charities, tenants associations and

churches who would like to send representatives to the next meeting/training session on April 14 at 7pm are invited to contact Peter Wilson on 01446 732616 or email peter-wilsonjazz@btinternet.com for further information.

Senior Citizens
COWBRIDGE Senior Citizens are meeting today (Thursday, March 20) at the Lesser Hall (Town Hall) at 2pm.

The speaker is David Salter, whose topic will be 'What the postman saw'.

The next trip will be on Wednesday, March 26 (not on Tuesday as usual). The venue is Carmarthen, leaving from rear of Town Hall at 9am at the bus stop. All are welcome.

AM's surgery
VALE AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Friday, March 21 from 4pm-5pm at The Gathering Place, St Athan.

Mayor's coffee
THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, will be hosting a coffee morning on March 22 in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone

Road, Barry at 10.30am to 12pm in aid of the charities Ty Hapus and The JAM Fund. Entry fee £3.

For more information, contact 01446 704921, or email juliehurd@barrytown-council.gov.uk.

Plant a tree
VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help plant 105 saplings from 10am-1pm on Saturday, March 22 at Barry Community garden and allotment, Dynallt Road, Gibbonsdown, Barry.

Children welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Refreshments provided.

Cabinet meets in Penarth

THE Vale council will be holding a 'community cabinet' meeting on Monday, March 24 at 6pm in the Paget Rooms, Penarth.

The meeting is open to the public, who can question the cabinet later.

Let's Go To The Movies
MEMBERS of the Barry Floral Society will enjoy a 'Trip to the Movies', a floral demonstration by Mrs Marie Munday of Painswick on Tuesday, March 25.

The meeting will be held at the St Nicholas Community Hall, Barry commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, March 25 at 2pm, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Country Park outside the visitor centre.

On Wednesday, March 26 at 10.30am, 'Up and Down', meeting at Ewenny Priory.

On Thursday, March 27 at 10am, 'Not the same as before', starting at the Sycamore Tree, Colwinston. Also on March 27 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Rhoease Railway Station car park.

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, March 27 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall, when speaker Steve Morgan will be talking about the history of the gardens at Tredegar House. New members welcome.

Mission AGM
GLAMORGAN Mission to the Deaf will hold its AGM at Bridgend Deaf Club,

Coychurch Road, Bridgend CF31 2AP on Thursday, March 27 at 7pm.

Art Society's next meeting
ON Thursday, March 27, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Swansea artist Mary Hayman who will lead a practical session using ink and water-colour.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm, and visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Family show

Llantwit mother and daughter artists Angela and Sasha have an exhibition at St Donat's Arts Centre until March 28.

Scout jumble

THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout Group hold a jumble sale at 1.30pm Saturday, March 29 at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

Punk legend to play in Llantwit

TOMORROW (March 21) at Llantwit Major Rugby Club, former bassist with The Damned, Bryn Merrick, will be appearing with his new band, The Shamones, a tribute today to the legendary New York punks, The Ramones.

Bryn spent almost 10 years with The Damned throughout the 80s playing on three studio albums and many top 20 singles. He regularly appeared on TOTP's and Whistle Test music shows as well as appearances on The Young Ones TV show. In 1986, he appeared on the cover version of the Barry Ryan hit, 'Eloise' which reached No.2 in the charts.

The Shamones

formed in 2010 in south Wales, to pay tribute to The Ramones. Brothers Andy and Dave Johnson recruited ex-Damned bassist, Bryn, who had joined the punk legends in 1982.

The band began rehearsing and by December 2010, they were ready to gig. They have not looked back since. Their set includes almost 50 of The Ramones' best anthems.

Also on the bill are two local bands who are products of Major Music, a Llantwit Major

based charity which offers young people a musical opportunity via a team of dedicated patrons and volunteers.

Stiph Richard are a four-piece combo from Llantwit Major who mix original and cover songs in an energetic set.

Aphelion are an all-female rock band with attitude worthy of the Rock and Punk cultures of the 70s and 80s.

Doors open at 7.30pm and admission is £3.

TREASURE TROVE ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR

Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Bear Field, Cowbridge CF71 7DA

Sunday March 30, 2014 10am-4pm; Trade 9.30am

Admission Adults £1.50, accompanied children free. Students (with valid NUS card) £1.00; Trade £1.00.

All enquiries 02920 512349

www.treasuretroveantiqueandcollectorsfairs.com

TY HAFAN LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D818.

● £2,000: 398857.
● The rollover, which now stands at £7,500 was not won this

week.
● £10: 744591, 486360, 782069, 842755, 384940, 884519, 177480, 749304, 269998, 855882, 569021, 732265, 364120, 225519, 469686, 585996, 383800, 782734, 940083,

474643.
● £5: 197580, 846003, 613030, 153103, 337102, 202652, 748089, 636139, 893376, 181365, 131353, 718958, 218234, 658298, 368994, 351149, 794198, 144330, 850736, 697687, 181400, 896091, 577700, 368536, 656426, 213025, 667410, 581338, 448382, 688294, 593731, 439709, 625380, 112999, 122330, 474770, 587614, 151754, 278933, 826606, 200527, 880893, 382158, 775167, 212761, 582125, 664698, 898565, 463181, 422930, 323131, 108497, 178717, 344753, 379551, 655970, 644881, 294018, 898761, 356629.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

OCEAN LOUNGE

PORTHKERRY

Saturday 22nd March

'CAZ'

Fantastic Female Vocalist

Saturday 29th March

'TWO CAN'

Brilliant Duo

Sunday 30th March

MOTHER'S DAY

Traditional Sunday Roast

Two Courses £8.95

Bookings Now being taken

SUNDAY LUNCH

12-3pm

Booking recommended

Fabulous HOME COOKED FOOD

exceptional Prices!

EVERY FRIDAY

Karaoke, Games & Shenanigans with Friday Funday!

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Three Horseshoes Country Inn
MOULTON, Nr BARRY

WINNER of South Wales Pub of the Year 2014

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday March 30th

Bookings now being taken

upstairs in Forge Restaurant

Traditional Sunday Lunch

3 Courses with Coffee..

£18.50 adults • £8.50 children

Or our lounge bar

SUNDAY LUNCH

1, 2 & 3 Courses Available - Booking essential

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YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £25

to spend with any GEM advertiser this week. Competition running every week during 2014.

Simply answer the question posted on Facebook each week.

You will find the answer in that week's GEM which is available online and in print every Thursday.

Inbox us your answer and contact details. Competition closes at 5pm every Monday.

Every week a winner is chosen at random and will have £25 to spend with any advertiser in that week's GEM!

Like us on facebook:
facebook.com/glamorgangem



The race against time to save pet dog after 30 foot fall

LOCAL vet Emily Ward-Smith, and staff member Natalie Smith of Dinas Vets, rushed to the aid of a 13-year-old Border Collie, Jack, after he fell 30ft onto the beach in Barry on Wednesday, March 12.

Jack was out walking with his owners' parents along the breakwater at Watch House Bay, Barry, when their peaceful walk was shattered as Jack fell from the breakwater wall, falling 30ft and somersaulting onto his head!

Jack was lying on the beach unable to stand up or move. His walkers stayed with him to keep him calm, while they phoned around local vets for help.

Dinas Vets owner Emily attended the scene and sedated Jack to ensure he was safe and able to be moved.

He was then (with the help of a construction worker), stretchered back to the car, and taken straight to Dinas Powys for x-rays and treatment for pain and shock.

Emily commented: "We rushed to the scene but a desperate search around Cold Knap proved fruitless. To our horror, we saw Jack lying in the bay opposite, with the tide coming in.

"We raced round to Watch House Bay where we discovered the path to the beach was closed.

"We begged the workmen to allow us access and raced to where he was lying.

"Both Jack and his owners were cold and in shock, Jack could not move and the water was lapping at the other side of the breakwater."

Jack's owners, Mr and Mrs Cook, spent a nail biting night wondering if Jack would be all right.

In the morning he was referred to Bath Referral Centre, where an MRI was carried out, showing no major damage to Jack's spine.

Jack is now home, where his owners are nursing him and giving him physio.

Hopes are high that he will recover and be able to walk again.

PLAID MAN'S CALL... 'Attract new shops into town centre'

PLAID CYMRU councillor Ian Johnson expressed disappointment following the announcement that a major Holton Road store is due to close in Barry.

Coun Johnson called for a quick response from the Vale Council to improve the town centre, after the closure of Burtons menswear store was announced.

He said: "Our town centres are at the very heart of our communities and the Vale

Council must take care to make sure that they continue to thrive.

"Holton Road is Barry's central business district, but has been criticised for the poor state of buildings, lack of green space and limited variety of shops.

"Work should concentrate on attracting new and independent stores to the town centre, particularly providing seed opportunities for young people, as well as new nationwide stores where possible."

Bridgend gig

HELLS BELLS, an AC/DC tribute band will play at Hobos Bridgend this Saturday (March 22) with local band Mojomatics; doors at 7.30pm.



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glamorgangem

FAIRTRADE GROUP PRAISES NOTTAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

RIGHT: Pete Thompson with Carys from year-4, Samuel from year-2 and Jamie from year-3.

PETE THOMPSON of the Bridgend County Fairtrade Group presented Nottage Primary School with a Fairtrade netball and rugby ball in recognition of their achievement in attaining Fairtrade status for the third time.

Pete reminded the children of the importance of Fairtrade in providing families with a fair price for their products enabling them to have food on the table and, most importantly, enabling their children to go to

school. He said that this is something we take for granted but in many parts of the world children have to pay to go to school or have to stay at home to work to help their family survive.

Pete thanked the pupils and teachers for their commitment to supporting Fairtrade which has enabled Porthcawl to become a Fairtrade town, Bridgend to become a Fairtrade County and Wales to become a Fairtrade country, the first in the world.



Explorer and Scout Leaders Ian Jones, Kevin Hicks and Gethin Charles with Hugh and Ioan.

Local teenagers set for Japan Scout Jamboree

TWO local teenagers, Hugh Exley and Ioan Wardhaugh, both members of the Vale Explorer Group, have been selected for the Welsh contingent at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan in July next year.

The event will see over 30,000 young people come together from 162 countries.

Hugh and Ioan each need to raise nearly £3,000 to allow them to take up this experience. Their fundraising starts with a plan to tackle the south

Wales Three Peaks on Saturday March 29, when they will walk 22 miles climbing the Bloreng, Sugar Loaf and the Skirrid.

In addition, Hugh will undertake lawn mowing, dog walking, holiday cat feeding, garage clearances etc to help raise funds, while teaching himself Japanese! If you have a task, call Hugh on 01446 773264.

Meanwhile Ioan's fundraising includes offering to play the harp for functions, piano accompaniment for instrumentalists, and car washing. Ioan can be contacted on 01443 229824.

First Minister celebrates church's transformation into a community centre

THIS Saturday (March 22) the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, will officially open The Wesley Centre, based in Tondy Methodist Church, Maesteg Road.

He will perform the opening ceremony at 2.30pm and following this, will join members of the community, as well as representatives of the church, user groups and the project's funders, to tour this fantastic new community resource.

The £470,000 project has transformed part of the Methodist Church into the 'The Wesley Centre'. The church is the only public meeting place in the village, and in recent years

there has been strong demand for the use of its hall.

However, people also wanted a variety of different meeting spaces which the church could not provide. A new floor has been created and this has been split up into storage space, a gallery, and four flexible, warm and welcoming rooms for meetings, consultations and events.

A new meeting room is now located on the ground floor and the kitchen has been enlarged and upgraded. A new lift enables wheelchair users, those with limited mobility, and parents and carers with prams to use the rooms. Rooflights on the new upper floor mean that it is lit with natural light.

READER QUESTIONS COUNCIL'S PROCESS 'Planning approval pre-empted the Vale LDP inquiry'

WITHIN five minutes, the Vale Council's planning committee unanimously approved the proposal to build 40 houses in Ystradowen, on a 1.9 hectare site adjacent to Badgers Brook Rise.

Not a single question was asked by any councillor, despite 74 objections to this planning application.

Many questions asked by Ystradowen residents and the Penlllyn Community Council have not been addressed in this decision.

Objectors pointed out that since September 2013, there has been no village bus service and the council has not ensured that this can be restored.

Key safety and congestion issues, relating to access through St Owain's Crescent and Badgers Brook Rise, are unanswered.

Above all, the Vale Council has broken its key election pledge in May 2012 when it promised to scrap the previous administration's LDP and replace it with a new one based on what Coun Moore described as consultation – "which will be more thorough and meaningful than that carried out by the previous administration".

A planning application like this pre-empted the outcome of the quasi-judicial LDP inspector's Inquiry.

A lot of residents in the Vale communities participated in the LDP consultation believing that their case would be fairly considered by that inquiry and were prepared to accept its findings, whatever they might be.

The point is especially valid for Ystradowen residents, as they were denied the opportunity to have their case considered by the UDP Inspector back in 2005, for what was then the largest housing development in the Vale outside Barry.

What we are witnessing in Ystradowen and other Vale villages is the bypassing of the future LDP inspector's inquiry by approving a number of candidate sites now.

Further, the unanimous vote last week demonstrates support for this strategy across the political spectrum.

Those who believe that their village is protected by the current UDP settlement boundary should realise that in fact this is not the case and all rural settlements are potentially at risk of windfall developments.

Having incurred the cost of two draft Local Development Plans, at taxpayers' expense, why is the council not following the process?

Dr Andrew Loyns, Fair Deal for Ystradowen Campaign.

Barry darts league round-up

THE Throws of Despair wrapped up the first division title with a game to spare.

A 9-0 win against the Starlets means they can't be caught at the top.

The Mariners took a step closer to the runner up spot with a 7-2 win over the Caddy Cons Raiders.

In the Premier League, the Poachers extended their lead at the top with a 8-1 win over the Wanderers.

The BFC Allstars overcame the Dartonians

by 7-2, while The Plastics earned an important away victory with a 5-4 win against the Billy Ghosts.

RL

PENARTH SURGERY

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for south Wales central, will hold an advice surgery at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm tomorrow (March 21). No appointment needed.

RHOOSE LIFE GUARDS' NIPPERS SHINE IN WELSH STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

FOLLOWING the recent junior, senior and masters competition, saw the youngest team from Rhoose Lifeguards travel to Swansea National Pool for the SLA Wales Stillwater Championships.

The Nipper team, led by co-ordinator Liz Wong, again put in some impressive performances in the individual, pair and relay races. The competition included flipper, manikin carry and board races with a number of relay and pair events also.

As with every year, Rhoose Lifeguards had a number of first time Nippers taking part in the competition. Standing on the starting blocks for the first time can be quite daunting, particularly for the younger competitors, but once the nerves passed all were very confident throughout the day.

Well done to all of the medal winners on the day with special congratulations to Welsh champions winning gold medals in the individual events - Oliver Wong, Evie Wong, Robert Grice and Lena Davies.

A full list of the individual event medal winners is below, but Liz Wong and her team of coaches would like to congratulate all of the Nippers who took part.

Liz had the following words of thanks: "Well done to all of the Rhoose Nippers who competed. All of the teams' hard work over the winter months has been rewarded with some excellent positions in the races and personal best times achieved."

"Of course the club doesn't run successfully without the help of all of the parents and coaches, and it's thanks to those who are always there to help at training sessions and to those who

undertook timekeeping and other duties at the competition."

She added: "A special thank you also to Mike Goode, who once again organised the Nipper 'design a t-shirt' competition in time for the Stillwaters. The Nippers and their parents all look very smart in their new t-shirts! Well done to Dylan Guy, Elena Gibson and Cai Beasley for their winning entries."

Rhoose Nippers finished the competition in fourth place out of the 12 teams taking part, with only a small number of points behind second and third place.

Individual medal winners: Robert Grice - gold Flipper Race, silver Manikin Carry, bronze Board Race; Ellie Bryan - bronze Flipper Race; Xantia Hobrough - bronze Flipper Race, silver Manikin Carry; Lena Davies - bronze Manikin Carry, gold Board Race; Cian Davies - silver Flipper Race, bronze Board Race; Evie Wong - gold Board Race; Oliver Wong - silver Manikin Carry, gold Board Race; Brooke Peterson - bronze Board Race.

Nipper team: Scarlett Davies, Elliana Phillips, Ellie Bryan, Sophia Reiley, Elena Gibson, Lena Davies, Gwenno Goode, Poppie Redrup, Evie Watkins, Katie Simms, Xantia Hobrough, Evie Wong, Alex Moignard, Yasmin Davies, Moli Lyons, Francesca Hopkins, Eloise Strange, Ella Bulmer, Isabella David, Alice Connelly, Lucy Lloyd, Emily Parker, Kiera Harris, Lisa Grice, Brooke Peterson, Liberty Brooks, Tesni Gardner, Helen Jenkins, Robert Price, Cai Beasley, Louie Gwatkin, Joel Williams, Sam Jenkins, Ethan Wall, Taran Downton, Cian Davies, Morgan Jenkins, Oliver Wong.

JF



Members of the Nipper team.



Lena and Cian Davies.



Isabella David and Yasmin Davies.



Scarlett Davies and Ellie Bryan.

Ethan Wall and Oliver Wong flexing muscles.



Rhoose 2014 t-shirts.



Xantia Hobrough.



Evie Wong and Ella Bulmer.



Lisa Grice, Keira Harris and Emily Parker.



Boys' relay team.



Robert Grice.



Members of the girls' team.



Brooke Peterson, Liberty Brooks and Tesni Gardner.



Liz with team members.



...On the starting blocks.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE IN THE VALE?

Mr and Mrs Matthew Barker - 7 The Verlands, Cowbridge - Alterations/extension to existing dwelling.
Mr Stephen Huntley - 7 Ashgrove, Dinas Powys - New single storey extension to rear and side of above property, porch to front.
WD James and Son - The Grange, Trepit Road, Wick - Steel portal framed building with a fibre cement roof and plastic coated steel sheet cladding.
KPS Construction Ltd - River Court, Treoes - Construction of a four-bedroom dwelling with associated curtilage.
Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd - Unit 2, Pencoeed Technology Park, Pencoeed, Bridgend - Erection of a three-storey B1 (Offices) class use development with rooftop plant, and associated single storey garage/workshop, adjacent gatehouse and security fencing.
Mr and Mrs John Stevenson - Bryntrion, 23 Church Hill Close, Llanblethian - Conversion of existing roof space.
Mr Craig Wallington - Denehurst, Barry Road, Barry - Cross over to front to allow disabled access.
Derek Thomas - Northcote and

Ashdene, Factory Road, Llanblethian - Roof repair.
Mrs C Turton - The Sheiling, Llancafarn, Barry - New glazed front bay extension; new dormer roof construction forming new bedroom at first floor, new dormer roof construction forming ensuite bathroom accommodation.
Mr Andy Marshall - Former tennis courts to St Cyres School Annexe, Murch Crescent, Dinas Powys - Erection of two storey Community Health Resource Centre, associated car parking and landscaping.
Mrs Delyth Hodgson - Bryn Hawddgar, St Mary Hill, Bridgend - Amended location for previously approved agricultural building.
Mr Nick Martin - 9 Augusta Crescent, Penarth - Demolition of garage and conservatory and construction of single storey side and rear extension, first floor rear extension and alterations.
Mr and Mrs Hywel Evans - 5 Lewis Road, Llandough - Single storey rear extension to create kitchen/dining area.
Mr Paul Tavanaie - 27 Plassey Street, Penarth - Demolition of existing garage, erection of

garage with store/workshop over.
Mr Steve and Mrs Katie Farmer - 6 Cedar Way, Penarth - Take down existing rear conservatory and construct single storey kitchen/dining extension and porch extension to front office.
United World College of the Atlantic - The Library Lift, United World College of the Atlantic, St Donats Castle - The installation of an internal platform lift to provide disabled access to the first floor of the castle, addressing the level differences at first floor level by introducing a raised section of flooring including raising the height of an existing door opening. Widening an existing door opening to the Lift Lobby and installing a new job style door.
The installation of a new ramp at ground floor level to provide disabled access through the building.
Mrs Lisa Williams - Community Allotments, Cynan Close, Barry - Erection of a summerhouse (wooden construction) and small paved area and path in front of summerhouse. Erection of a compost toilet and storage area.
Greenfinch Investments Ltd - Garn Farm, St Hilary - The erection

and operation of a single wind turbine (maximum height 99.5m to blade tip), with associated infrastructure including turbine hardstanding, construction compound (temporary), new site access track, cabling and control building. Areas for potential micro-siting have been included as follows: 50m for the turbine and control building; and 5m either side of the access track.
Mr Craig Reynolds - 11 Tennyson Road, Penarth - Proposed first floor side extension.
Roath Housing Co Ltd - Former Post Office Sorting Office, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major - Development of 18 affordable flats with associated parking and amenity areas.
Mr Leonard Richards - 4 Great House Meadows, Llantwit Major - Detached new house in the garden of the existing dwelling.
Mr John Mills - St Lythans House, St Lythans - Detached garage, garden workshop.
Mr Jude Hills - 115 Cedar Way, Penarth - Single storey side and rear extension and front porch.
Mr N Woodward - 36 Sully Terrace, Penarth - Single storey

extension to rear.
Mr Clifton Brown - 20 Beryl Road, Barry - Take down existing dilapidated lean-to kitchen and construct new single storey kitchen/breakfast room.
Mr Kevin Halborg - Penarth Kiosk, Stanwell Road, Penarth - External material alterations.
Dr Jerry Heath - Lane End, Michaelston Le Pit - Demolition of pole barns and light industrial buildings. Creation of a new dwelling and barn and reinstating ponds.
Mrs Rebecca Hooper - 102 Stanwell Road, Penarth - Replace wooden sliding sash windows with identical style UPVC sliding sash windows.
Mr Peter Lewis - The Green Room, 13A Station Road, Dinas Powys - To turn an A1 building into an A3, change the use into a coffee shop.
Mr Huw Gapper - 29 Westward Rise, Barry - Single storey side extension, creation of rear dormer and roof alteration projecting to new rear lean-to extension incorporating bi-fold doors.
Mr Keith Parfitt - 23 Greave Close, Wenvoe - Demolition and rebuild of boundary wall.
Mr Paul Rolley - 13 Fulmar Close, Lavernock Park, Cosmeston, Penarth - Lawful development certificate for proposed dormer.
One Stop Convenience Stores - One Stop Community Stores Ltd, 9 Cornerswell Road, Penarth - Fascia sign and window graphics.
Mr David Hodgkinson - 27 Bedlington Terrace, Barry - Ground floor extension.
Mr Gardener - Brook House, Main Avenue, Peterston Super Ely - Reduce upper crowns by removing up to 5m of two ash trees.
Mr Mohamed - 56 Victoria Road, Penarth - Crown raise oak tree to 5m.
Miss Aldene Thomas - 27 Tynewydd Road, Barry - Change of use from residential to an A1 shop, hairdressing and beauty salon.
Mr B Gatis - 5 Beech Park, Colwinston - Proposed extension to rear incorporating sun room and internal alterations to increase size of front bedroom and entrance lobby.
Mr Jagdish Patel - 10 Talyfan Close, Cowbridge - Conversion of existing garage/carport to new lounge.
Lisa Dutton - 32 Matthew Road, Rhosce - Single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration of front elevation.
Mr Matthew Nicholls - Woodlands, Peterston Super Ely - Removal of a modern UPVC conservatory to the front of the

house and another to the rear. Erection of single storey extension to the rear of the house and open porch to the front of the house. Rendering to front elevation to cover existing stonework.
Mr and Mrs SR Davis - 50 Kingsland Crescent, Barry - Conversion of four bedroom residential dwelling into two self-contained flats, one one-bedroom flat and one two-bedroom flat.
Ms Anwen Hopkins - 7 Button Ride, St Nicholas - Two storey rear extension.
Mr Graeme Thelwell - 14 Church Hill Close, Llanblethian, Cowbridge - To demolish existing garage, construct an extension in the location of existing garage to make dining room. Extend existing bedroom to include an en-suite. Construct an open sided sun porch. Construct new detached garage, remodel/level external area.
BT plc - A48 St Nicholas, opposite Trehill Cottage, St Nicholas - Openreach broadband cabinet (PCP003v2).
Mr David Miller - Ashlea, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys - Two storey, first floor and single storey extensions.
Mrs Wilson - 4 Britway Road, Dinas Powys - Fell and replace two Sycamore trees.
Mr and Mrs Michael David - Hen Dafarn, St Mary Hill, Bridgend - Application to increase the height of the wind turbine granted as part of planning application reference 2012/01130/FUL.
Green Circle Concrete - Longlands Quarry, Cornstown - erection of cement silo.
Trustees of St Fagans No 1 and 2 - St Y Nyll Farm, St Y Nyll, St Brides Super Ely - Change of use and conversion of existing barns to provide two residential dwellings, and associated works.
Brownfield Green Ltd - Porthkerry Road, Methodist Church, Porthkerry Road, Barry - Proposal to convert the former Methodist church and adjacent school hall into 10 residential houses with associated gardens and parking.
Mr Shaun Barry - 8 Cardiff Road, Cowbridge - Erection of double garage.
Mr and Mrs S Gillanders - 9 Cowper Close, Penarth - Single storey rear and side extensions and dormers for loft conversion.

Dathlu Gwyl Dewi yn Gymraeg...

CAFWYD dathliad arbennig o Wyl Dewi yng Nghanolfan Addysg Gymunedol Palmerston, y Barri, ar nos Lun, Mawrth y trydydd, gyda chyfle i'r cyhoedd fwynhau amrywiaeth o weithgareddau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Rodd gweithiad crefft, gwino a chanu, a chlwb llyfrau, yn ogystal â chyfle i ddysgu coginio pice bach ar-y-maen. Perfformiodd aelodau'r dosbarth canu am y tro cyntaf, dan arweiniad Alice Jones a chyfeiliant Sandra Williams.

Mwynhaodd pawb ganu caneuon Cymraeg poblogaidd gyda'i gilydd, a chafwyd datganiad annisgwyl gan gyddlynedd Cymraeg i Oedolion y Fro, Mared Furnham, yn uwareded soprano.

Mae'r nosweithiau Llun addysg oedolion Cymraeg yng Nghanolfan Palmerston yn dathlu ym 7 o hyd, gyda dosbarthiadau newydd yn cychwyn mewn gwino ac Hel Achai yn mis Mawrth. Ceir lluniaueth ysgafn a chwmm o 6pm ac mae'r dosbarthiadau'n dechrau o 6.30pm.

Bydd cyfarfod nesaf y Clwb Llyfrau ar Fawrth 31 o 7-8pm a'r llyfr dan sylw fydd Blasu gan Manon Steffan Ros. Cynhelir dosbarth Crefft Cardiau yng Nghanolfan y Cymyn, Penarth, brynhawniau Mawrth yn ogystal, a bydd gweithgareddau yn dechrau yn y Bonfaen yn fuan.

Croesewir rhieni a phlant bach i sesynau Amser Stori yn Palmerston ar fore lau am 9.30 ac yn yr Hen Neuadd, y Bonfaen fore Gwener, lle mae cyfle i glywed stori ac ymarfer ynganu, canu a gwneud crefftau.

Bydd Amser Stori newydd yn dechrau ar ôl y Pasg yn Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, Llanilltud Fawr am 2.15 dydd Mercher.

Am ragor o wybodaeth am weithgareddau a dosbarthiadau Cyfrwng Cymraeg a Chymraeg i Oedolion, cysylltwch â Mared Furnham yng Nghanolfan Palmerston ar 01446 733762. DL

Celebrating St David in Welsh... PALMERSTON Community Learning Centre in Barry hosted a special St David's Day Celebration on Monday, March 3 with the chance to enjoy a whole range of activities through the medi-

um of Welsh.

Visitors were able to take part in various workshops including sewing, crafts, singing and baking Welsh cakes. There were also courses for brushing up your Welsh and a chance to join in the monthly Welsh bookclub.

To celebrate St David's Day, the singing group performed a short concert of Welsh songs they have been learning under the leadership of tutor Alice Jones, accompanied by pianist Sandra Williams.

This was followed by some community singing of favourite Welsh tunes and a surprise recital by Welsh for adults coordinator and soprano, Mared Furnham.

Monday evening learning through the medium of Welsh at Palmerston centre has become increasingly popular with more activities being added in March including sewing and Family History.

A cardcraft class is held at the Kymyn Centre in Penarth every Tuesday afternoon and further activities are planned for Penarth and Cowbridge Community Learning centres.

The classes are aimed at all Welsh speakers, particularly those who might have attended Welsh medium education and would like to have opportunities to practice their Welsh. Confident Welsh learners are also welcome.

Doors open at 6pm for refreshments, internet café and games. Workshops commence from 6.30pm.

Admission is free. Amser Stori Storytime sessions for parents with small children take place through the medium of Welsh on Thursday Mornings (9.30am-10.30am) at Palmerston centre, and Fridays at Cowbridge Old Hall, providing an opportunity for parents of any language background to hear Welsh with their child.

A new Amser Stori begins in Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, Llantwit Major, after Easter (Wednesdays at 2.15pm).

For more information on all the activities and opportunities for learning and improving your Welsh, contact Mared Furnham at Palmerston centre on 01446 733762.

DL



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HIGH SHERIFF OF MID GLAMORGAN YOUTH COMMUNITY AWARDS 2014



by KEITH E MORGAN

MARCH 12 was a special day for young people in Mid Glamorgan who received financial awards for their work in the community from the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Mr Rory McLaggan.

Awards are made each year by the High Sheriff to individuals and groups under the age of 21 who live in one of the three boroughs of Mid Glamorgan. The awards go to young people who have shown great commitment and given of their time and effort in their own homes or communities by taking part in an initiative which stands out as being over and above what could normally be expected.

The awards presentation evening was held at Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Felindre Meadows, Pencoed, Bridgend, by kind permission of general manager Matt West who commented: "We are delighted to have hosted the High Sheriff Awards this year and huge congratulations to all of the winners."

"It's great to see young individuals' enthusiasm and commitment taking pride in helping out in their local community."

The evening was attended by representatives from all parts of the county of Mid Glamorgan and the speaker for the event was Mr Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, who praised the young award winners for their contributions to community life.

The High Sheriff said that the scheme, set up in 2008, was a great success and he was very grateful to all the sponsors, and particularly grateful to Ortho Clinical Diagnostics who had hosted the Awards Presentation this year and laid on a superb buffet for everyone.

Next year, the presentation evening will be held in the premises of the other major sponsor Sony UK, also at Pencoed Technology Park, Bridgend.

Nominations for 2015 can be submitted up to January 23, 2015, for the prizes which range up to £500. Nomination forms will be found on the South Wales Police website or by emailing highsheriffmidglamorgan@google-mail.com and the presentation evening will take place in March 2015.

In the individual awards, first prize was awarded to Jenna Claridge from Church Village who received an award of £250.

The citation said: "Jenna, a caring and responsible young woman at the age of 13 became involved with services for young people. As a result of her commitment to this she was selected RCT Youth Mayor in 2013.

"As a Youth Mayor, she nominated the Leah Beth foundation as her Charity and organised and took part in a fashion show that raised over £800 for the Charity. She has raised the profile of young people in her area and regularly feeds back to RCT Council cabinet issues of concern to young people."

Second prize went to Angharad Roberts from Pontyclun who received a prize of £200.

The citation said: "Angharad, although attending college, finds the time to do extensive volunteering work and every week volunteers at the local girls' club where she supports year-6 students with transition to high school.

"In addition, she volunteers with Barnardo's, supporting their participation group for disabled teenagers and siblings group for their brothers and sisters, as well as working with the Y Bont Centre for Disabled Children in Bridgend, at their Saturday club for autistic children.

"Angharad takes evening classes in British Sign Language and extra tuition in communication skills to enhance her work with disabled children

"To further her skills Angharad has undertaken work placement with mainstream and special schools and is a firm favourite with the children and parents who entrust them to her care and her ambition is to become a children's nurse."

Third prize of £150 was awarded to Josh Stephens of Maesteg who was firstly involved in a building skills project at a local primary and after this, on his own initiative took part in a building project at another borough primary school.

The citation added: "Throughout the projects, Josh worked well and acted as a mentor to other young people taking part in the second scheme for the first time. He always worked to a high standard and could be relied upon to work on his own initiative.

"The finished project, a castle and train outdoor learning area, has been a great asset to the school and is enjoyed by all teachers and pupils." Josh was nominated by Kevin Reeves.

In the group awards, first prize of £500 was awarded to 'Fast Cafes' from Tondur.

The group of four young people have set up a mobile catering unit on a not-for-profit basis. Their hard work enables any profit made to be fed back into the Groundwork Youth Centre to pay for activities, trips etc

This has been a very extensive project where during year one they put together a business plan and sought funding with Wales Co-op and SEWCED (South East Wales Community Economic Development programme).

During year two, they started building their enterprise, taking their mobile catering to such events as local fetes, carnivals and music festivals. The enterprise was a success and 12 other young people were brought in and provided with training, work experience and business knowledge.

In year three, the project continues to grow. They are planning to extend to even bigger festivals such as Glastonbury. The group was nominated by Mark Holmes of Groundwork.

Highly commended were Bridgend Young Carers, who are doing an amazing job at helping to care for a mother, father or a sibling who is disabled, ill, elderly or suffering with mental health issues.

ABOVE: Matthew W West, General Manager UK Operations, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Pencoed, together with members of his staff and the catering team.



ABOVE: The High Sheriff, Rory McLaggan, presenting Fast Cafés with a group first prize certificate and £500.

LEFT: Mr Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner, with Matthew W West, general manager of UK Operations, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics.

RIGHT: The High Sheriff presents Bridgend Youth Carers with a group prize highly commended certificate and £200.



ABOVE: Jenna Claridge of Church Village was handed the individual first prize certificate and £250.



ABOVE: Angharad Roberts, of Pontyclun, received the individual second prize certificate and £200 from the High Sheriff.

£20,000 raised for farm flood victims

A STAGGERING £20,000 has been raised by NFU Cymru Glamorgan members jointly with Glamorgan Young Farmers Clubs, for Somerset farmers affected by the recent floods.

The money was raised at an event held recently at Barry Memorial Hall, hosted jointly by NFU Cymru Glamorgan Chair, Abi Reader and Glamorgan YFC Chair, Beth John. Entertainment was provided by Wick and Maendy YFC clubs and the Glamorgan YFC Choir.

Abi Reader said: "The night was a

great success and an excellent opportunity for farmers and young farmers to get together. The generosity people showed that evening was incredible and a good demonstration of farmers and their supporting industries standing together. It was a lot of hard work to organise but it was well worth the effort."

Aside from the stage entertainment, guests enjoyed a delicious knife and fork supper. The auction raised £8,000, with the prizes donated by both local and national businesses. The raffle was equally successful and raised £2,000 and a significant donation was received from Glamorgan NFU county funds.

Concert for local charities

ON Saturday, March 22 the Bridgend County Civic Charity and the Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend have arranged a prestigious concert at Archbishop McGrath Roman Catholic High School, Brackla.

The Master of

Ceremonies, Mr D Hugh Thomas CBE, GCStI, DL will introduce the special guests, Tri Tenor from west Wales – John Davies, Crwys Evans and Robyn Lyn; soloist Rhiannon Owen, Kenfig Hill Male Choir; flautist Bethan Rees, Bridgend County Youth 'Strings Plus' and Ieuanicid Aelwyd Porthcawl. The concert starts at 7pm. Tickets are £10 with a programme.

The charities for 2013/2014 that will benefit are Bridgend County Stroke Groups, Heronsbridge School Bicycle Recycling Workshop Social Enterprise Project and GOFAL for Mental Health and Well Being.

Further information by telephone from 01656 664105 or by e-mail: major131@btinternet.co.uk

HOW WALES TRY-FEST SANK 14-MAN SCOTLAND (in pictures)

Liam Williams, who gave a man-of-the-match performance deputising for injured full back Leigh Halfpenny, soars over for Wales' first touchdown.



These vivid action shots from last Saturday's Six Nations clash, when Wales ran in seven tries against 14-man Scotland at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, were captured by the HUW EVANS AGENCY

• See report on back page



'FRIENDLY' GOLF CLUBS ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS

THE friendliness of the members is the main reason for joining a golf club in Wales, according to a new survey.

The Golf Development Wales study emphasises the importance of clubs providing a friendly welcome to new members – as revealed in a survey open to nearly 2,000 people who have been through the GDW's New2Golf scheme.

Around two out of every three people to have taken part in the New2Golf scheme went on to join a golf club, according to the online survey, with the majority being women.

This is borne out, too, by the experience of Southerndown Golf Club – whose head professional, John Peters, has been organising this scheme at the club for the past two years.

In the GDW survey, around 90 per cent replied that they were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' by the welcome they received at clubs.

"This is really important feedback and helps to remind clubs there is plenty they can do to encourage people to join," said Golf Union of Wales development director Hannah Fitzpatrick.

"The number of new golfers joining

ADVERTISING FEATURE

clubs indicates that this friendly welcome is exactly what these new members are looking for.

Women are often attracted by the club's social programme, while for men the opportunities to get a handicap and play in competitions are often more important – however, competitions were still important to a third of the new women members, too.

"All these stories are good for the people taking up a game that will keep them active for the rest of their lives."

New2Golf is a promotional scheme for clubs and professionals which encourages participants to get hooked on golf.

Each New2Golf member receives a pack that includes a rules and etiquette pocket book, 50 per cent off a lesson voucher, six for the price of five lesson voucher, friend or family lesson voucher, £1 million public liability insurance (adults only) and 25 per cent off golfers insurance through CCV, among other benefits.

In the two years since New2Golf was launched, including the initial pilot period, 1,796 people have taken up the membership, 776 ladies, 429 boys, 290 men and 301 girls.

Thanks to Wales hosting the Ryder Cup, 200,000 people have had the chance to give golf a try.

For details on New2Golf, go to <http://www.golfdevelopmentwales.org> and click on *Beginners and Golfers* – or contact John Peters, head professional, Southerndown Golf Club, on 01656 881112.

On and off the turf with Brian Lee

BRIDGEND home by three quarters of a length from the well fancied *Skating Home*. Hannah Watson took the day's riding honours with a double on *Silver Phoenix* (Club Members) and *Over Night Bag* in one of the open maiden races. The Bonham Mens Open Race was won by 10-1 chance *Ice Cool Benny* who, partnered by his trainer Tom Weston, won by six lengths from *Cock Of The Rock*.

Repeat Business, owned by Cowbridge's Jeff Bird and ridden by James Tudor put up an impressive performance when landing a division of the open maiden in fine style.

This Saturday, point-to-point returns to the Vale when the Glamorgan Hunt stage their annual meeting at Uplands, Ystradowen. Racing gets under way with the members' race at 2pm (see Brian's preview across the page).

The 33-1 outsider was given a confident ride by Anna Metekohy, who rides out for Evan Williams, and came home 20 lengths ahead of the odds-on favourite *Chesnut Annie* partnered by Brodie Hampson.

A fortnight earlier, Anna had been unshipped at the third fence over the Howick course when partnering *Lauberhorn*, but a spin over hurdles at Tim Vaughan's Aberthyn yard earlier in the week worked wonders.

Sam Williams, aged 30, who won the Members' race on *Arkendale*, was another rider who was tasting success for the first time. He got the 12-year-old

Under-13s bounce back

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-13s bounced back after defeat to **Kenfig Hill** last week when they travelled to **Pontyclun**.

The game started well for the Major with the forwards out-muscling the Ponty pack, and a piece of magic from outside half Liam Padmore got the boys on the scoreboard with a fantastic chip over the back-line and some foot-balling skills to control the ball over the line.

The set piece domination continued, and a scrum from the Major gave quick ball to scrum half Kyle Cates, who spun a lovely crisp pass to the backs. Silky skills created space for Iwan Robinson-Booth to sprint half the length of the field for a score.

Llantwit then decided to let the forwards have a go. With strong rucking and mauling, the forwards were making hard yards look simple. A superb pop pass off the

ground from prop Rhys Roberts to lock Connor Treadgold gave Llantwit their third try, as Connor's mix of power and pace saw him cross the whitewash.

It wasn't long before Llantwit were rewarded once again. A penalty 10 metres out was called and captain Owen Hodge elected for a scrum. Hooker Chandler-Haines struck the ball beautifully in the scrum and number 8 Joss Harris picked the ball up from the base and crashed his way over. The halftime score was 22-0 to Llantwit.

For the second half, Llantwit introduced some fresh legs and the momentum didn't change. New player Cam Sims showed how hard he's worked in training by carrying the ball well and rucking aggressively.

The forwards were on top of the breakdown with notable carries from Brandon Hughes, Lewis Fryer and Dom Henson, while stand-in wingers McInnes and Richardson also caused problems out wide.

The next try came when a carry from Richardson saw substitute scrum half Ben Wilson pass to fullback Iwan, who once again showed great balance and power to cross the line.

Llantwit did concede a try though with some

good hands by Ponty to make it 25-5. The boys wanted the final say and quick thinking fly half Padmore picked the ball up from the ruck and dived over to score.

The game finished with a superb 35-yard touchline conversion from Iwan to seal the 32-5 win for the boys.

The boys would like to thank Heritage Cars, Boverton Nurseries, OCS Computers and Cardiff Paint Supplies for their kind donations to the boys training tops.

Llantwit's next game is against Bridgend Sports this coming Sunday. The boys would also like to wish injured winger Dylan Chamberlain a speedy recovery as a long-standing wrist injury has put him out of action since Christmas.

Anyone interested in playing for LMRFC under-13s should contact Kris Pilcher on 07557 128861.

Team: Dom Henson, Tyler Chandler-Haines, Rhys Roberts, Connor Treadgold, Brandon Hughes, Lewis Fryer, Mason Richardson, Callum McInnes, Owen Hodge (captain), Joseph Harris, Ben Wilson, Kyle Cates, Cameron Sims, Liam Padmore, Fraser Prior, Dylan Holloway, Joshua Dunn, Luc Williams, Iwan Robinson-Booth.

KP

LLANTWIT UNDER 12s SHOW SPIRIT IN THEIR DEFEAT

AN enthralling encounter in the Bassaleg sunshine saw Llantwit under-12s cursing missed opportunities as Whitehead Steelers served up a defensive display worthy of their Pittsburgh namesake!

In the first ever match between the two sides, it didn't take the hosts long

to grab the first score of the match.

With the Llantwit defence sleeping, the Whitehead backs spread the ball wide, which created space for the full-back to cross in the corner.

The final 10 minutes of the first half saw Llantwit spring to life as they started to pass the ball across the back line.

Wing Jensen Velthuis almost got his first try,

only to be pulled down just short.

The second half started just like the first. Llantwit were still applying the sun cream when Whitehead saw a huge gap down the blind side and exploited the defence to score their second try, which was duly converted.

Llantwit are now a different side - 12 months ago the floodgates would have opened. Instead they set about getting back into the game. Morgan Jenkins finally found a gap in the home defence and scored a typical try when he held off chasing defenders to score in the corner and reduce the deficit to 12-5. Shortly after, Llantwit found themselves right back in the game when, following some loose play by the hosts, James Walker scooped up the ball and sprinted 50 yards to score his first try for the club.

The conversion was missed and with 15 minutes to go it was 12-10 and all to play for.

Both sides threw caution to the wind and squandered opportunities with defences holding firm as neither side gave in. The final score was 12-10.

MR

Point-to-point hits the Vale

A good crowd is expected to turn up for the annual Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen, on Saturday.

Racing gets under way over this unique course at 2pm with the members' race for which there are seven entries and these include *CanShettrain* and *DontTellMeThat*.

There are 13 entries for the eight-year-old and over confined maiden race and the ones to watch here are *Brooklyn Heights*, *Earth Tremor* and *Coolbach*.

In the mixed open race, all eyes will be on William Vaughan's recent winner *Silver Story* who will have most to fear from *Midnight Dawn* and *Cock Of The Rock* who finished second to *Ice Cool Benny* at last week's Currie & Llangibby meeting.

Dboe and *Beyond Dreams* could fight out the finish of the restricted race, for which there are 12 entries.

There are 17 down to run in the maiden and the best of these appear to be *Billy Congo*, *Call The Doc* and *CanShe Train*.

There will be a parade of hounds between the fourth and fifth races.

BRIAN LEE

Bowls club's AGM

BARRY Athletics Bowls Club is holding its AGM in the clubhouse on Thursday, April 3 at 7pm.

The club is recruiting new members of any age and bowling ability for the coming season, which starts on Saturday, April 12 at 2.30pm.

Anyone interested should contact Clive Cottrell, secretary, on 01446 410708 or e-mail clive.cottrell@virginmedia.com.

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Fab four claim gold at the Palace!



Four cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron were recently presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards.

FOUR cadets and instructors from 372 (Barry) Squadron recently travelled to St James's Palace, London, to receive their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Gold awards in the presence of the Earl of Wessex.

The fabulous four – Carl Chaplin, Megan Palmer-Wood, Sam Lazenbury and James Yorke-Wade had worked hard over the last two years; demonstrating their skills, determination and mentality to succeed.

The Gold Award Presentation (GAP) is a unique event and a fitting culmination to celebrate Megan, Carl, Sam and James' achievements in completing their Gold DofE programme.

The highlight for all four was their Gold expeditions. Megan and Carl travelled to Snowdonia to tackle a challenging route over four days, while Sam and James' expedition took place in the Brecon Beacons.

All four took on a variety of challenges to complete their Gold awards. Megan Palmer-Wood regularly reads to a blind lady and travelled to Cyprus for her residential project. Carl improved his marksmanship and coaching skills and also completed his residential project with the Royal Air Force in Cyprus.

Both James and Sam improved their sports skills and fitness and completed their residential projects with a visit to the battlefields and memorials of World War One in Belgium and France.

James said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the expedition as it was something which pushed me to my limits and at times beyond. Being wheelchair-bound, I loved the countryside and the amazing views. Sam was also an amazing support to me; patient and constantly helping and encouraging me through the highs and lows of our expedition. We thoroughly enjoyed

our trip to London and I was really proud to have received my Gold award."

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, Commanding Officer, said: "I am exceptionally proud of their achievements. I have seen their hard work and determination over the last two years and achieving the Gold award is richly deserved."

The Air Cadets undertake many other activities including flying, gliding, adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, camps, overseas visits and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: if you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old.

The squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm-9.30pm), behind Adams Funeral Parlour. Phone 01446 747734; email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information about the Air Training Corps, or joining the squadron.

Local school devotes two days to celebrating books and Welsh culture

PHOTOGRAPHS
by IAN DIXON



PUPILS at Peterston-super-Ely School celebrated World Book Day on March 6 by dressing as their favourite hero or heroine.

The headteacher handed out prizes to each form and commented on the extremely high standard of costumes, and said that the pupils had used their imagination to great effect.

The following day, it was time for the school's annual eisteddfod, with competitions for recitation, singing, and piano, guitar, recorder and drums.

There were also certificates to be awarded for school work, model making, and a range of other activities. The day culminated in the crowning of the bard.



Residents attend local meeting

A BARRY councillor has recently met with local residents in the Gibbonsdown Rise area, to discuss local issues.

Independent councillor Richard Bertin organised the meeting to discuss a proposal to build new homes on the Ysgol Maes Dyfan site, and to discuss the flood prevention works in Dyfan Road.

Forty people attended and some said they need to be better informed on what is taking place locally. Concerns were also

expressed about the trees that have been removed at the Dyfan Road site and the request to improve the junction of Gibbonsdown Rise and St. Brides Way.

Coun Bertin said: "There were a number of issues raised, including safety and communication, which are important and need to be addressed."

He promised to take up these concerns with the Vale Council.

Flood debate

A Natural Resources Wales drop-in session at Murchfield Hall gave an insight into maintenance work carried out to the River Cadoxton in the Dow Corning area and how this might benefit Dinas Powys.

Local councillor, Chris Franks, said: "The authority is now considering what actions are necessary to reduce the flood risk to Dinas Powys properties."

"It is possible for residents to sign up to receive flood warnings. There were booklets detailing how we can improve the 'flood resilience' of our homes."

"If there is sufficient interest, a local flood action group may be set up to help in an emergency."

VIs beat Rovers to reach first cup final

AFTER last week's record win against Penarth Town, the VIs had to strategise and adjust to face a closer matched side in Barry Rovers in this Dockers Cup semi-final.

The strike partnership of Mortimore and Morgan looked strong and almost proved the difference when VIs' top scorer Morgan knocked the ball past Rovers onrushing keeper, only to see his effort cleared off the line.

The dangerous duo soon turned their efforts into results and set up the opening goal. VI captain Mortimore picked out his partner with an impressive pass for Morgan to lay back to him inside the box. Mortimore drilled home his 17th of the season and resumed his good form after last week's four goal tally.

Just before the break, Tony Charles almost created another goal for Mortimore after intercepting and sending a long ball straight to the striker. Mortimore

struck a shot straight at the keeper however, and Morgan failed to put away the rebound.

After the half-time break, Barry Rovers looked to peg the VIs back and mount a challenge of their own. After winning the ball in the middle of the park, Rovers sent a long ball that bounced between a Rovers striker and VIs' keeper Paul Lucas.

The striker managed to poke the ball past Lucas and the shot stopper could do nothing to avoid colliding with the forward.

Tony Charles somehow managed to clear the bouncing ball off the line, only to find his efforts in vain as the referee blew for a Rovers penalty.

Several minutes passed while the striker who collided with Lucas received treatment. Rovers number six took the ball and the responsibility of levelling the game from the spot. The spot kick hit the post, rebounded back to the striker who struck the crossbar with his rebound and then poked a third rebound effort wide. The players and crowd couldn't believe their luck at still being ahead after the extraordinary event.

The VIs had dodged a bullet and quickly set about creating a safer lead to defend. Dean Cleave battled in midfield to win the ball and brought it out wide,

pressing the defence. Rovers' frustration at failing to clear and deal with Cleave led to the midfielder being brought down on the edge of the 18-yard box after a clumsy challenge.

A quick summit between the Lewis brothers and Mortimore to decide who should take the set piece ended with the captain ready to strike. Mortimore took a short run up to generate a powerful side-footed effort into the far side of Rovers' net.

His second goal of the game around the 70-minute mark looked to deflate Rovers' hopes of a comeback and they rarely threatened the VI goal again.

The VIs continued to look for goals, with Reece Lewis' set piece work proving difficult for Rovers to deal with. Mortimore, Thomas and Cleave all came close to netting from Lewis' deliveries, with the midfielder also coming close to scoring straight from a corner, a feat he managed just a week ago.

The game was almost marred by a dangerous two footed tackle on Leigh Lewis by a Rovers' defender. The VI winger was lucky to escape injury and the guilty defender was also lucky to stay on the pitch, walking away with just a yellow card.

The final whistle blew not long afterwards and the VIs can now look forward to April 6 at Jenner Park

where they'll challenge for their first trophy. The other semi-final finished with Rhosneigr winning 7-1, meaning VIFC will have to beat their league title rivals to two trophies.

VI manager Bill Laing said after the game: "We're pleased we've made it the final, it's a cliché but we want to just concentrate on our forthcoming league matches as they remain our priority. We'll enjoy our day in Jenner Park... but only if we win!"

Cadoxton Barry are the opponents for this week in the league at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday with a 2pm kick-off.

Team: P.Lucas, C.Goodwin, S.Thomas, T.Charles, J.Robinson, J.Laing, R.Lewis, D.Cleave, L.Lewis, P.Morgan, J.Mortimore. **Subs:** C.Joughin, A.Rogers, S.Lucas.

Thank you to the many fans who turned up to support us in the game and have supported us throughout our cup run. Many thanks must also go to Owen's Motor Services, Llandow, who are our main team sponsor and shirt sponsor and our other backers The Three Horseshoes, St Athan, Higgy's Site Services Ltd and Cooleasy.co.uk, as our early success as a club wouldn't have been possible without them.

RC

Under 8s are on the double!

COWBRIDGE under-8s travelled to Rummy intent on keeping up their good run of form.

Cowbridge started brightly in game one with James Lord catching the defence napping following a slick switch move with Joe Davies.

Rummy got themselves on the scoreboard but Sam Jackson quickly countered, running strongly through the opposition to score in the corner.

Joe Davies increased the lead, outpacing the defence after a purposeful run by George Edgell.

James Lord then grabbed his second try, supporting Henry Whitehouse who had characteristically burst through.

Joe Davies then sliced his way through following a crafty break by Ben Stephenson.

Ioan Phillips showed great support to score the opening try of the second half.

James Collingridge bamboozled the defence after a textbook switch move to extend the

Cowbridge lead, and Sam Sheppard glided his way to the corner after an elusive run by Joe Arentsen.

Rummy fought back but Henry Davies floated a superb pass to Harry New who turned on the gas to pull clear and score.

Charlie Berkley-Smith set up Sam Sheppard to conclude the scoring. **Final score: 10-3 to Cowbridge.**

Game two was a much tighter affair with the only score of the first half coming from an individual run by Sam Jackson dissecting the home defence.

Harry New added to the tally in the second half and then Rummy fought back, but James Collingridge kept finding gaps, providing the opportunity for Harry New to complete his hat-trick for the day.

Rummy once again responded but Cowbridge held on for the win. **Final score 3-2 to Cowbridge** - an all-round superb performance from the boys in all aspects of the game!

UNDER 9S WIN IN LLANDAFF

ON a beautiful Sunday morning Llantwit Major under-9s travelled to Llandaff North.

The match was made up of three 10-minute games.

Llantwit's Sam A took the first pass of the game and ran in his first try within the first minute.

There was some fantastic passing between Sam H and Sam A, allowing Sam A to score another two quick tries.

Llantwit's defence worked hard, and every attack by Llandaff North was stopped by some great tackles from Josh, Owen and Rhys.

With some great passages of play, Logan and Sam A were both able to score tries. Josh, Iwan and Dylan M chased everything and the pressure led to a fantastic interception try from Llantwit's Josh.

Llandaff North kept trying to break through Llantwit's defence, but were unsuccessful for

most of the match. They did manage to score twice though, due to some fantastic passing between themselves.

Llantwit continued to put the pressure on, passing and running well, using the whole pitch, which in turn opened up the field for Dylan W, Josh and Dylan M to score tries.

The final score was 13-2 to Llantwit.

At the end of the match, high praise came from the Llandaff North coach, saying that the tackling from the Llantwit squad was some of the best tackling that he had seen in under-9 rugby!

Man of the match: Josh Wakeham,

Squad: Josh Wakeham, Iwan Thomas, Sam Alexander, William Harrisan-Watt, Sam Harry, Rhys Greenaway, Tom Roberts, Shona Heywood, Will Sqaunce, Jack Taylor, Logan Pike, Dylan Wright, Owen Hill and Dylan Morgan.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (Regulation 20)

Notice of Site Allocation Representations on a Local Development Plan

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026

The Vale of Glamorgan Council prepared a Local Development Plan (LDP) for the above area which was placed on deposit for consultation until 5pm on 20th December 2013. The LDP will, upon adoption, replace the current development plan and be the basis for decisions on land use planning for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Responses to the deposit consultation included representations relating to site allocations shown in the LDP. These representations suggested new sites or the alteration or omission of proposed sites in the Deposit LDP.

A Schedule of site allocation representations, together with further details are available for public inspection from Thursday 20th March 2014 until Thursday 1st May 2014 during normal opening hours at the following locations:

Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU

Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

Vale of Glamorgan Council, Alps Depot, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA

All Vale of Glamorgan Libraries.

This information is also available on the Council's website at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp.

The schedule of representations does not reflect the position of the Local Planning Authority itself. It has yet to decide whether it is in favour of any of these suggested changes. Whether the deposit LDP is changed now is a matter for an independent Inspector. Representations (including those in the form of objections) in respect of the site allocation representations should be sent in writing to The LDP Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT or e-mailed to ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or made online via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp by Thursday 1st May 2014.

Representations (including objections) at this stage must relate only to the site allocation representations. They should not propose further changes to the original deposit LDP or new sites. Any such representations will be disregarded as they should have been made during the earlier stages of plan preparation.

Representations (including objections) should specify the matters to which they relate. Objections should specify the change sought, the grounds on which they are made and the test(s) of soundness to which they relate (see below).

A form for making representations is available from the above address or on-line at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp.

The Authority's feedback mechanism: Next Steps

The Deposit LDP, and all duly made representations will be considered by an independent Inspector who will assess whether the plan is 'sound'. There are a number of tests of soundness and these can be found on the form for making representations or at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Objections to a site allocation representation should make reference to these tests wherever possible.

Representations made in accordance with this notice (i.e. 'duly made') will be considered by an independent Inspector appointed to examine the soundness of the plan.

Only those who made 'duly made' representations at the deposit stage have a right to appear before and be heard by the Inspector carrying out the Examination (section 64(6) of 2004 Act).

Further information is available from the LDP Team at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT or from the Council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Deddf Cynllunio a Phrynu Gorfodol 2004

Rheoliadau Asesiad Amgylcheddol o Gynlluniau a Rhaglenni (Cymru) 2004

Rheoliadau Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref

(Cynllun Datblygu Lleol) (Cymru) 2005 (Rheoliad 20)

Rhybudd o wneud Sylwadau ar Gynllun Datblygu Lleol ynglŷn â Dyrannu Safleoedd

Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2011 – 2026

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi paratol Cynllun Datblygu Lleol (CDLI) ar gyfer yr ardal uchod a osodwyd ar adnau ar gyfer ymgynghoriad tan bump o'r gloch ar 20 Rhagfyr 2013. Bydd y CDLI, ar ôl ei fabwysiadu, yn disodli'r cynllun datblygu presennol a bydd yn sail i benderfyniadau ar gynllunio defnydd tir ar gyfer Bro Morgannwg.

Roedd yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad adnewo yn cynnwys sylwadau ynglŷn â dyrannu safleoedd sydd i'w gweld yn y CDLI. Roedd y sylwadau hyn yn awgrymu safleoedd newydd neu'n gofyn am addasu neu ddileu'r safleoedd sydd wedi'u cynnig yn y CDLI adnewo.

Mae rhestr o sylwadau ar ddyrannu safleoedd a rhagor o fanylion ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu hastudio rhwng Dydd Iau 20 Mawrth 2014 a Dydd Iau 1 Mai 2014 yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol yn y mannau canlynol:

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri, CF63 4RU

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel, Gwenfô, CF5 6AA

Holl lyfrgelloedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Mae'r wybodaeth hon hefyd ar gael ar wefan y Cyngor sef: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp.

Nid yw'r atodlen sylwadau yn adlewyrchu safbwyntiau'r Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol ei hun. Nid yw'r Awdurdod eto wedi penderfynu p'un ai a yw o blaid unrhyw newidiadau sydd wedi'u hawgrymu ai peidio. Mater i Arolygydd Annibynnol bellach yw penderfynu p'un ai i newid y CDLI adnewo ai peidio. Dylech anfon eich sylwadau ynglŷn â dyrannu safleoedd (gan gynnwys unrhyw wrthwynebiadau) mewn llythyr at aelodau Tim y CDLI, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT, mewn neges i gyfeiriad ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk neu eu cofnodol ar-lein drwy fynd i www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Mae'n rhaid i'r holl sylwadau ein cyrraedd erbyn dydd Iau 1 Mai 2014.

Dylai pob sylw (a gwrthwynebiad) yn ystod y cam hwn o'r broses gyfeirio at ddyrannu safleoedd yn unig. Nid dylai gynnwys newidiadau pellach i'r CDLI adnewo gwreiddiol na safleoedd newydd. Caiff unrhyw sylwadau o'r fath eu dystyru am y dylent fod wedi cael eu gwneud yn ystod camau cynharaf y broses o baratoi cynllun. Dylai sylwadau (a gwrthwynebiadau) nodi pob mater sydd dan sylw. Dylai gwrthwynebiad nodi'r union newid sydd mewn golwg, y rhesymau dwys gynnig y newid hwnnw a'r holl brofion cadernid perthnasol (gweler isod).

Cewch ffurflen ar gyfer gwneud sylwadau drwy gysylltu â'r cyfeiriad uchod neu fynd i www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp.

System adborth yr Awdurdod: y camau nesaf

Caiff y CDLI Adnewo a phob sylw a wnaed yn briodol eu hystyried gan Arolygydd Annibynnol a fydd yn asesu p'un ai a fo'r cynllun yn 'gadarn' ai peidio. Mae nifer o brofion cadernid ar gael a chechw eu gweld ar y ffurflen sylwadau ac ar wefan www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Dylai gwrthwynebiadau i sylwadau ynglŷn â dyrannu safleoedd gyfeirio at y prifion hyn lle bo hynny'n bosibl.

Caiff sylwadau a wneir yn unol â'r hysbysiad hwn (h.y. 'eu gwneud yn briodol') eu hystyried gan Arolygydd Annibynnol a benodwyd i archwilio cadernid y cynllun.

Dim ond y rhai a gyflwynodd sylwadau 'yn briodol' ar y cam adnewo a gaiff ymddangos gerbron yr Arolygydd sy'n cynnal yr Archwiliad a chael gwrandwiad ganddo. (Adran 64(6) Deddf 2004).

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael gan Dim y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT ac ar wefan Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp

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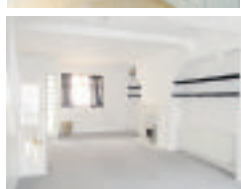
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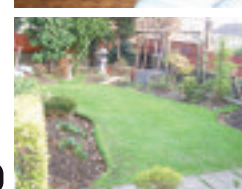
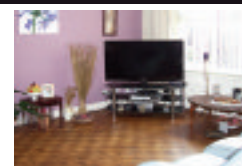
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Bridgend Sports junior rugby round-up

UNDER-8s

Kenfig Hill 10 – Bridgend Sports 9

A beautifully crisp morning at the home of the Mules and with a squad of 10 the Sports looked keen and eager.

They started off well with the 'magician' Joel weaving his way through the blue and black traffic to score the game's first try.

The joy was however short-lived as the mammoth Kenfig players bulldozed their way through some slack defence to score three unanswered tries.

With ball in hand and having found space the Sports always looked dangerous. This was epitomised by tries from Tom Chick and the returning Tyron to square the match at 3-3.

Again, though, lapses in concentration (and an uphill slope to contend with) allowed the home team to score three more tries with Joel sandwiching one in between them.

Tagging was again improved, and a couple of excellent sets of six thwarted the Mules again, and on the turnaround Thomas Coles pounced to evade a few wannabe taggers to score a great try. Kenfig replied almost immediately through before Joel rounded off his hat-trick with a touchline-hugging run.

Ironically, we left it to the last five minutes to play our best rugby, constantly on the attack and keeping the Mules on the back foot. Cian John picked up a loose ball from within his own half and a sweeping run saw him outstrip some slow defence.

Next up saw some great support play from Tyron, as he was on hand to pick up a pass close out to squeeze over for his second. Then came a moment of controversy, as a quick tap penalty and pass to Joel saw him dive over for a try; however, the referee disallowed the try.

From the resulting restart Cian scored what may have been the try of the match with a mesmerising run down the flank, scoring his second try of the morning - this was the first time the Sports had captured the lead.

Unfortunately though it was to be their last contribution of the game as Kenfig rattled in two tries to take a 10-9 lead.

With the final play of the match,

Sports had an opportunity five metres out but the final pass went astray and the referee blew his whistle to end the match.

Man of the match went to Cian John. Cian was again consistently good in the tagging area and his brace of tries demonstrated how effective running straight with two hands on the ball can be.

Everyone played well though and pleasingly everyone wanted the ball. Kenfig Hill were a huge outfit, towering over the Sports in stature and they played some good rugby; but huge credit to our players, as everyone stood up and tagged as hard as they could.

Squad: Mckenzie, Tyron, Joel, Cian, Jodie, Callum, Iestyn, Ieuan. Tom Chick and Thomas Coles.

UNDER-9s

This game was away against Kenfig Hill on a sunny but surprisingly chilly Sunday morning, with the coaches agreeing on three games of 10 minutes each.

The game didn't start well, with both sides appearing to suffer from cold hands, and multiple knock-ons and ball handling mistakes ensued. Luckily this was not a sign of what was to come and both sides settled down and played an engaging and skillful game of rugby.

Shea opened the scoring and ran nearly the length of the pitch, leaving the Kenfig team in his wake, closely followed by another two tries scored in a similar style, supported well by the rest of the team powering through the Kenfig defence.

Kenfig answered with a try of their own in the final minute of the period, but it was too late to make a difference to this period of play and the first game ended 3-1 to Sports.

The second session started much better than the first with Jacob quickly taking advantage of a Kenfig Hill infringement and scoring a try which unfortunately was disallowed.

Not to be denied, following a team regrouping and some good passing, Jacob powered over from a few yards from the line and scored. Shortly after, Finn displayed an amazing run for the line covering almost the whole of the

pitch, only to be tackled and brought down a couple of yards from the line.

Kenfig quickly answered with a try, and following a passage of play when ball retention by Sports was excellent, Shea scored again with the period ending 2-2.

Kenfig opened the scoring in the final period of play, and seemed to have found a final burst of determination, although following an impressive few minutes where Sports kept complete possession of the ball, Nathan used his strength to power over the line to draw the score level. Shea finished the last game with a try to bring the score to 2-1 to Sports. Final score 7-4 to Sports.

Overall, the game showed how the team are improving every week. The early handling errors were replaced with good passing, hard tackling and steady progress up the field with multiple turnovers and clearing up of spilled ball.

Special mention should be made to Oliver, who demonstrated his exceptional tackling skills, Ryan for his strength and ball carrying, Joe for his general speed and swiftness on the pitch and Morgan for always being a safe pair of hands.

MVP went to Shea who displayed running and passing skills which are a pleasure to watch; he is a valuable member of the team and grows with every game he plays. Well done Shea, an excellent game.

Squad: Shea (5), Declan, Tristan, Curtis, Morgan, Max Harris, Fynn, Nathan (1), Oliver, Joe, Jacob (1).

UNDER-10s

Bridgend Sports 49, Kenfig Hill 14

Bridgend Sports took a trip to Kenfig Hill on a lovely sunny Sunday morning. After the disappointment of the previous week, Sports were set the challenge of starting strongly.

In the first couple of minutes of the game Domi scored in the corner and this was converted by Owain. Kenfig Hill levelled the score with a converted try, but Sports tackled strongly and constantly put pressure on Kenfig Hill when they had the ball.

Josh scored the next try and converted. After a good steal at the breakdown

the ball was passed wide and eventually James scored, converted by Morgan.

In the second half, Sports again started well, quickly turning the ball over and passing into space. Will Price scored a try which was converted by Ethan.

Kenfig Hill scored the next converted try but Sports soon hit back and despite the efforts of the tackler, Domi showed real determination to get to the try line. The try was converted by Owain.

Sports kept the pressure on with Cullen breaking free to score the next try, converted by Jared. Sports finished the game strongly when Luke showed good strength to cross the line, converted by Cullen.

The boys put in a great performance and totally controlled the breakdown. The support play by the Sports players was excellent with the boys also being prepared to pass before being tackled to players in space.

This was one of the best performances by Sports so far this season - keep it up boys!

MVP went to Jack Davies for his passing from the ruck, his tackles and commitment shown to the team. A special mention goes to every other player who took to the pitch as everyone gave a strong performance.

Team: Owain Peters, Rhys McNally, Rhys Vaughan, Dom Manaseitua, William Littlewood, Rory Lee, Joshua Wilkinson, Morgan Rees, Jared Philip, Ethan Scourfield, Mac Francis, Cullen Loynton, Tom Gardner, Luke Yates, James Murray, Jack Davies, Will Price, and Ieuan Wright.

UNDER 14s

The Sports claimed four wins in five matches with an impressive 31-3 victory over Rhymney.

The Sports put in a decent all-round display which proved that they are defensively solid and dangerous in attack. The Sports had a squad of 17 for the fixture.

The Sports started the game well and scored an early try when captain Matthew Biggs led by example once again to make an important break which inevitably led to the consistent Joe Davis crashing over the line to score just to the right of the posts. The conversion was

then successfully taken by Will Prosser.

However soon after, the hosts got some points on the board when the Sports conceded a penalty. Rhymney then chose to go for the posts and they were successful in getting three points on the board.

The Sports then extended their lead by demonstrating their good scrummaging skills by winning the Rhymney scrum which deservedly resulted in Number 8 Callum Reape crossing over the line to score a try. Will Prosser then confidently converted to make the score 14-3 to the Sports.

Evidently, the Sports were now playing with confidence as they scored a third try before halftime. This try was created when the Sports intercepted a sloppy pass from the Rhymney scrum which led to the Sports creating sustained pressure in the Rhymney 22 and then after several phases Matthew Biggs scored in the corner to make the halftime score 19-3 to the Sports.

The second half was a more even affair which turned the match into a very physical encounter. The Sports started the half with promise, and after a period of pressure the Sports wore the Rhymney defence down with Joe Davis at full stretch to score his second try of the match and the Sports now led 24-3.

However, Rhymney didn't give up and they were clearly desperate to score a try as they were deep in the Sports half for around 10 minutes. The Sports defence should be commended for withstanding this pressure and for preventing their opponents from scoring.

Sports flanker Joe Davis then made a superb break from inside his own half to complete his hat-trick by scoring under the posts and Will Prosser then converted to make the final score 31-3.

Overall, the Sports deserved the win today as they demonstrated their strength in all areas. The Sports defence was particularly pleasing once again, as they now haven't conceded a try in two games - well done!

JD

PHOENIX PUT IN A CREDITABLE PERFORMANCE

PENCOED PHOENIX travelled to Pembrokeshire for this National Super Cup pool match at Whitland.

The Phoenix squad included debutants Emma Meredith and Gemma Stevens. The early scrums saw the big home pack get the nudge on taking a couple of heads.

Phoenix won a turnover in their own 22, allowing scrum half Sam Trickey to put in a fine 40-metre clearance.

Whitland opened the scoring following a scrum which saw them capitalise on the wheel down the exposed Phoenix blindside for speedy wing Rhian McCulloch to score in the corner.

Phoenix hit back with good combined play involving centres Mel Clay and Katie Murphy and wing Leanne Burnell before Trickey shrugged off a number of defenders from 10 metres out to score.

Whitland returned to the attack and worked right wing Heather Rees over wide out. The home side returned to the Phoenix 22 and following a close-up lineout, flanker Nat Walsh used

her strength to fend off the defence to cross the whitewash. Walsh was later chosen by Phoenix as home forward of the match.

Burnell then rescued her side in her own 22, intercepting before setting off on a brilliant 40-metre run to change defence into attack; however, home No 7 Walsh picked off a floated Phoenix pass that saw her counter from 60 metres to score!

With Phoenix having conceded 20 points in as many minutes it appeared a possible rout was on the cards, but to their credit Phoenix fought back superbly to enjoy their best period of the match.

Sustained driving play from the Phoenix pack with skipper Lowri Reeves at the heart of the effort saw No8 Amy Stevens in support, Stevens driving over in a determined manner, Trickey converting from wide out.

Phoenix second rows Hannah Brunsell and Charlotte Mundy then put in gutsy tackles on their much bigger counterparts within their own 22.

Phoenix then produced a score out of nothing, Mundy stealing a Whitland throw at the lineout deep in her 22

for Trickey to kick clear, and with Whitland counter-attacking from around the Phoenix 10 metre line, 18-year-old Mundy, up with play, intercepted to race clear, pursued by right wing Rees, on her way to getting a remarkable try. Trickey adding the extras and Phoenix now trailed 20-19.

Whitland then extended their lead with Phoenix losing possession around halfway for home No 8 Angharad Williams to take the final pass to score under the posts, Becca Norris converting for the home side to lead 27-19.

Phoenix however were to have the final say before the interval, a break from Trickey following sustained driving play from the Phoenix pack saw flanker Kathryn Stonehouse in support of her No 9 to crash over.

Trickey converted and Phoenix went in at the break a point adrift at 27-26.

Phoenix opened the half with strong driving play from Stevens and Stonehouse, but their problem with securing quality possession from the scrum was beginning to detract from their efforts, with the home side getting on top in terms of possession.



Megan Whittaker kicks at goal.

Phoenix broke out from their own 22 then lost possession and the home side were clinical with Sara M Davies the finisher on the swift counter.

Unfortunately for Phoenix, Whitland were to turn over possession in contact on a couple more occasions, leading to Williams and McCulloch getting their second tries.

Phoenix finished the match strongly however, with Clay making 60 metres out of defence with a kick and chase, before making the first up tackle on the home full back.

Phoenix hammered away at the home line in the final minutes, Burnell almost weaving her way over in the corner, and Becca Pope and Gemma Stevens carried strongly in the home 22 and Phoenix deserved a consolation try, but it

was to be Whitland's day with their defence holding out for a hard earned victory by a margin of 16 points which perhaps did not do the Phoenix effort justice.

Phoenix can reflect on a most creditable performance, the pluses four tries away from home against a good Whitland side, debutants Emma Meredith and Gemma Stevens fitting in nicely, and young Mundy developing with every game at this level, chosen by Whitland as Phoenix forward of the match, with Sam Trickey chosen by the home side as the Phoenix back of the match.

On Sunday, Pencoed Blaenau Gwent in another Super Cup pool game and can take confidence from their best display against Whitland to date.

TR



ABOVE: Amy Morgan holds off a Whitland tackler and BELOW: Kayleigh Powell crosses the try line. PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK



Council hope that golf can boost tourism

GOLF will be used as a hook to attempt to secure other major events and more visitors as part of a new strategy drawn up by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Cabinet members have approved a new 'Visitor Events Strategy', which outlines ambitious plans to further develop the county borough's events programme.

With the 'Senior Open Championship' presented by Rolex being held at Royal Porthcawl this July, golf is being targeted as a key draw to entice tourists and elevate the seaside town's reputation.

The Welsh Government has reached a £5m agreement for three Senior Open Championships to be played in Wales between 2014 and 2024, and BCBC has agreed to contribute £50,000 towards the hosting of the first event in Porthcawl.

This year's Senior Open is predicted to attract 34,000 spectators, of whom 25 per cent are expected to be from overseas, and with legendary Ryder Cup heroes such as Ian Woosnam, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Bernhard Langer all set to play, the event will also attract media coverage across the world and hours of live TV coverage in both the UK and USA.

It will help put Bridgend county borough on the map, and Coun David Sage, cabinet member for tourism, said: "The Senior Open is a hugely significant tourism event for Bridgend county borough and the council will be making every effort to ensure that it delivers maximum benefits for the area."

"The return on hosting major golf tournaments is substantial, bringing large sums into the local economy, and we are fully behind Royal Porthcawl's bid to follow up a successful Senior Open by hopefully staging the Open Championship within the next ten years. That is the ultimate aim, and securing such a prestigious tournament would make Porthcawl synonymous with golf and establish the town's future reputation across the world."

"In addition to the economic benefits that come with hosting large events, there are also plenty of potential additional benefits, such as enticing more local people, and youngsters in particular, to improve their health and wellbeing by taking up the sport. We are fully behind this and will be

working closely with events promoters and the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club to establish the venue as a front runner to host the Open in the near future.

"We are working with partners to highlight the county borough as a potential venue for future events, and have lined up a series of press trips for the likes of Today's Golfer and National Club Golfer magazines, plus a number of London-based national newspapers and regional newspapers from across the UK."

"The tourism market has increased steadily over the last three years. As well as promoting the county borough as an active holiday destination to a potential global market, the Senior Open supports the growing reputation of south Wales for hosting major events such as the Ryder Cup and brings with it thousands of pounds of free publicity."

Tourism injects £282m into the local economy, supporting over 4,255 jobs, and the Visitor Events Strategy describes the steps the council will be taking over the next three years to identify events that have the most potential for growth, and how to support them accordingly.

Coun Sage added: "Quality events strengthen the local economy, help to change the perception of the area, and improve civic pride among local residents too. Our vision is for

Bridgend county borough to be recognised as a successful and dynamic events destination and we need to play to our strengths, which is why we are targeting golf specifically, but we are also mindful of the potential in the outdoor music, sports and festivals sectors too, so we will be trying to attract events of this nature whenever possible.

"However, it is clearly a competitive market, and a major event would need to stand out from the crowd to become established."

The strategy also explains that, as the council needs to make budget savings, it will be moving away from developing and delivering so many events itself, and will instead be looking in partnership with event organisers by offering funding, advice and marketing support.

A strategic events fund of £60,000 will be established from the current tourism budget and event organisers will be able to apply for grant funding if their applications meet clear criteria.

To read a copy of the 'Visitor Events Strategy' go to www.bridgend.gov.uk.

The 'Senior Open Championship' presented by Rolex takes place at Royal Porthcawl on July 24-27 and tickets can be bought by calling the hotline on 0800 023 2557 or via www.senioropen-golf.com.

300th cap for Dean!



ABOVE: Dean Henson of Pencoed RFC is celebrating the notable achievement of 300 club caps. It is thanks to players like Dean that Welsh grass roots rugby remains as strong as it is and produces internationals for the future.

PHOTOGRAPH by JULIE HANCOCK

Athletic's family connections!

BRIDGEND Athletic RFC prides itself on being a family club and has made huge strides since its formation in 1972 to now compete in the National Championship.

Its ability to punch above its weight and compete with clubs with far more financial muscle is mainly down to a big policy decision made in 1991.

Pioneered by one of the original club founders, Phil Rees, the club set up a mini and junior section providing age group rugby for all ages between seven years and 16, providing a ready source of talent to progress to youth and senior level. Over 75 per cent of the current championship squad have come through the Athletic ranks.

Similarly, the coaches and management section have a previous affinity

with the Athletic.

Head coach John Apsee played three seasons for the Athletic youth and was vice captain in his final season. He played one year for the seniors before joining Maesteg, where he won Wales B caps as a powerful centre. He then moved down the valley to captain Bridgend, and finished his career as captain and coach of the South Wales Police.

His brother, Simon, also played a number of years for the Athletic and both brothers have current Maltese international sons Dan and Rhodri Apsee in the current first team squad.

Backs coach Stuart Morris is a true Athletic legend. He has played over 500 games for the club and holds the record for most appearances, most seasons as captain, most overall points and most points - 347 in a season for the Athletic.

He was still playing centre this season more

than 25 years after his first appearance, before a back injury curtailed his playing time. Who knows if he might still wear the green and gold jersey in the future?

Forwards coach David Williams played in the Athletic youth and senior side alongside Stuart, and received an Athletic cap for more than 300 appearances. He was an excellent flanker and has also captained the side.

A recent addition to the coaching staff with particular emphasis on scrummaging and tight play is Ian Greenslade. Ian started his career as a 15-year-old wing forward in the Athletic youth team, then moved on to Cardiff youth.

It was as an uncompromising hooker he made his senior name with Cardiff, before eventually captaining his home town club Bridgend. Ian also played for the Athletic seniors as a hooker and prop. His brother Terry was also an Athletic stalwart at youth and senior level as a no-nonsense flanker.

BARFC team manager Paul Hearn was a prop for Blaengarw and South Wales Police. His first association with the club was when his sons Matthew and Tom joined.

Matthew played at all age groups before joining the youth and senior ranks as a flank forward. Tom was a chip off the old block, starting as a prop forward and picking up both youth under-18 caps and played for Wales in the under-21 World Cup finals in Argentina.

He played for the Athletic first team before moving on to Caerphilly, Bridgend and Maesteg. Following a spell in Australia, he moved to a professional six-year contract in Spain.

Paul coached the Athletic at under-15, under-16 and youth level. He took on the mantle of team manager when the club was in Division 2 of the Swalec leagues at the same time John Apsee took up a coaching role with the club. Following the passing of Barrie Morris (father of player/coach Stuart), he also assumed the role of fixture secretary.

Send us your match reports, news and other items of interest - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

SLOPPY SCORPIONS LET IN SEVEN TRIES

SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS 12 HEMEL STAGS 38 by IAN GOLDEN

HEMEL STAGS advanced to the fourth round of the Tetley's Challenge Cup after a convincing win over South Wales Scorpions, whose defence let them down throughout a lot of the game.

When the home side attacked, they did well and could have scored a number of tries in the

first 10 minutes.

Following a penalty, Scorpions should have taken the lead after three. Paul Emanuelli kicked well aiming for Ian Newbury but the winger dropped the ball while under pressure.

Two minutes later and Emanuelli was causing trouble again, kicking to the opposite wing but Chris Leyshon was beaten to the ball and Hemel conceded a goal-line drop-out.

Chris Vitalini was then pulled back after making a clean break from a forward pass.

But after winning two penalties, Stags scored from their very first attack, as on 13 minutes Dan Ljizouli cruised through the Scorpions' defence; BJ Swindells missed the kick.

The second try came after Ash Bateman's lob was picked up by James Cameron and from the resulting set of six, Essad Al-Zubaidi easily

grounded under the sticks following Jy-Mel Coleman's grubber with Swindells easily converting.

Jy-Mel Coleman went over for Hemel's third on 32 minutes with Swindell adding the extras to make the score 16-0.

Then Swindells was held up over the line preventing a fourth try for the away side.

Scorpions hit back when Connor Farrer dived over from dummy half right on the hooter. Paul Emanuelli converted to make the score 6-16.

The home side were first to score in the second half. It took 17 minutes but it was a try to remember - a stunning individual 60-metre run from Dafydd Hellard, fighting off half of the Hemel team on the way before grounding just left of the sticks, leading to an easy conversion from Emanuelli.

But the Stags hit back straight away when Ben Thorburn finished off a good passing move and Ben Young converted.

Mitch Barbera added a fifth Stags' try from the next set after kick-off with Young again kicking the extras to seal the game.

After that, the Scorpions capitulated. James Hill was over for the next with the kick missed before Swindells got their seventh with Young converting.

South Wales Scorpions: 1. Jordan Sheridan 2. Ian Newbury 3. Jack Pring 22. Dafydd Hellard 5. Chris Leyshon 6. Paul Emanuelli 13. Ashley Bateman 17. Rhys Fitzgerald 7. Shaun Owens 12. Phil Carleton 11. Barrie Phillips 21. Matt Wilcox 10. Chris Vitalini.

IG

Bridgend Bridge Club round-up

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club are:

March 12: 1st Linda Pinnock and Dennis Mottram; 2nd Liam Sheridan and John Beard; 3rd Ray Smith and John Evans.

March 14: 1st Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams, 2nd Tony Haworth and Rob Charlesworth, 3rd Tony Disley and John Evans.

March 13: Leading improvers, Mike Williams, Susan Hunt, Christine Davies, Arthur Harvey.

This week's lesson (Thursday,

March 20) is the last of the current course for improvers.

However the Thursday sessions (2pm-5pm) will continue for duplicate bridge. These sessions are intended for the less experienced and newcomers are always welcomed.

Lessons for beginners are planned for September. Please contact John Evans (01656 880372) or Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) to register a place.

JE

Porthcawl youth romp past Neath Athletic

PORTHCAWL Youth were again in impressive form in their 49-0 friendly win over Neath Athletic at South Road recently.

Matthew Owen, the coach of the young Seaweeds, was rewarded for his decision to use some of his squad players from the start with a seven-try display.

Owen said: "I gave all the boys who haven't had much game-time a game. Jacob Goodwin made his first start at second row and so did Josh Harvey at prop. It was nice to see Ross Jenkins come back from injury at centre."

Ben Kent also made a rare start at prop, but it was the more familiar figure of Ollie Banner who initiated the rout with a sizzling individual run to the line.

Banner converted his own try; the first of seven successes from as many attempts in a 19-point haul for the outside-half.

Prop Tom Matthews was the next to cross before Jobe Owens deceived his opponents with a bold dummy to score under the posts.

The latter excelled for the second consecutive game from No 8, as did his fellow back-row forward Will Robinson, who caused Athletic plenty of problems in the tackle area.

Owen, the Porthcawl coach, seized the opportunity to make changes at

halftime and his side soon extended their lead with a second try from Owens.

Jake Thomas has also been a key contributor this season and he followed his man-of-the-match effort at Bridgend Sports with another sound performance at centre. Thomas consistently created space for his team-mates and grabbed the fifth try to take Porthcawl past 30 points.

Then Cory Gardner, who had switched positions during the match, proved that he is just as dangerous on the wing as he is at full-back by touching down.

A final try by Jenkins combined with the boot of Banner to complete the Seaweeds' latest victory romp.

The youth will finish the month with another home game, against Nantymoel, which will provide them with the chance to clinch the league title, and Owen urged as many people as possible to show their support for Porthcawl Youth by attending that crucial encounter on March 29: "Come and support the boys," he implored. "They've had a great season, and it will be a big day for the club."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Porthcawl youth can contact either Matthew Owen: m_owen_1@hotmail.com or Tracey Williams: tracey_williams27@yahoo.co.uk.

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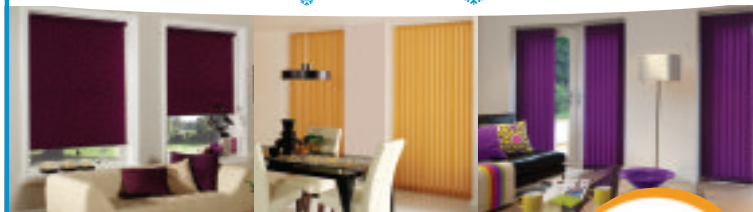
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Family Notices

SIMS

Victor Barry (Barry)

Peacefully at home on March 15, Barry, a well known taxi driver, former driving instructor and known for his time working as a boiler maker in The Ship Repairing Yard at Barry Docks.

Barry was also a lifelong and active member of St John Methodist Church, Barry Island. Devoted husband of Christine, much loved dad of Mark and Michael. A respected father-in-law of Kim & Debbie. Cherished Bamp to Charlotte, Tristan, Coni-Anne and Lia-Marie, special brother of Carole & Kelvin. He will be so dearly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting in the Private Chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at St John Methodist Church, Barry Island on Tuesday, 25th March at 11:15am followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family Flowers Only - Donations if desired may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Penarth.

HAMILTON

(Nee Ryan) Shirley

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on March 13th, Shirley of Purdey Close, Barry. Dearly beloved wife and best friend of Frank. Shirley will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service in the chapel on Wednesday March 26th at 10.45am, followed by cremation at the Brinwnt Chapel at Thornhill Crematorium, Cardiff at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations to a charity of your choice.

PUNTER

Christopher William

Sadly passed away on March 12th at Llandough. Chris, well known for his time at Western Welsh, Woodham Brothers and Blue Circle Cement. Chris was also a long serving member of Barry Dock Liberal Club. Much loved husband to the late Joyce Alexander Punter and the late Pauline. A loving dad, brother, grampy and bampy biscuit. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the Private Chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Barry on Friday, 28th March at 11.00am followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home. Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

AMOS

Francis (Frank) Gwilym George Amos, 81, of Barry, passed away peacefully on March 10th at Llandough Hospital with his family by his side.

Frank was the eldest son of the late George (Samuel) Amos and Mavis Rees and brother to Cher and Gerald. Frank will be best remembered as the General Manager of the Tower supermarket in Barry. Frank was a devoted husband to the late Ivy and is survived by his sons Simon and Anthony; daughters-in-law Benedicte and Katie; and grandchildren Nathan and Sebastian. Frank will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.

He will be resting in the Private Chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Barry, at 1pm on Friday 28th March, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, at 2.15pm. Instead of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the British Heart Foundation. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962

OVERY

John McConnell (Ex RAF)

Suddenly but peacefully on March 14 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, John aged 87 years of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Rene (Doreen). "I will love you forever Sweetheart". Loving father of Paul, Carole, Karen, Susan, Julie, David, Fred and the late Marita, much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. John was a brother-in-law and dear friend to David and dearly loved brother of Margaret, loving brother of Ronnie and beloved brother of the late June and Brian.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Monday March 24, service 2pm at The Gwathling Place, St Athan, followed by interment in Llantwit Major Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations, if desired, to Velindre Hospital c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

HOBBS

Miriam

Peacefully, on March 13 at Barry Hospital, Miriam (Granny Hobbs), aged 96 years, previously of Owain Court, St Athan.

Beloved wife of the late Eric Ernest, a loved mother of Andrew and mother-in-law of Annette, cherished grandmother of Derryn, Claire and great-grandmother of Olivia and Emily, dear sister of Bill. Miriam will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday March 27. Service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, where family and friends please meet at 11.15am. Family flowers only. If desired, donations may be handed to the Funeral Director after the funeral for Age UK.

BRACHER

Nicholas Paul

Suddenly, at his home on March 2, Nick of Llantwit Major. A much loved son, brother and a devoted father and grandfather.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Barry, until his funeral service and committal at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, March 24 at 1.30pm.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

Anniversaries

Congratulations

Joyce & Harold Sutcliffe

(Mum & Dad)



on your Golden Wedding Anniversary on 24th March.

Lots of love Alyson, Elaine, Beth & families xxx

Thank You

Thank You

Many many thanks for all the flowers, presents and huge amounts of cards received for my birthday.

It has been very exciting and great fun.

Joan Thomas, Pancross

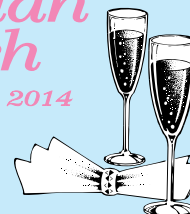
Birthdays

Happy 70th Birthday!

Marian Rich

24th March 2014

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ASSAULT: Police issue an appeal

POLICE are appealing for information to trace Lewis Richards, who is wanted in relation to an assault in Penarth on February 25.

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LEWIS RICHARDS.

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Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, Persimmon Homes Ltd and BDW - Land at Barry Waterfront, Adjacent to Dock No 1, Barry - Variation of Conditions 1, 2 and 3 of 2009/00946/OUT for the development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1 and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2)). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, regrading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing,

landscaping, public realm and open space provision at Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No 1, Barry. Sir Peter Phillips - Fronheulog, Church Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge - Construction of extension to side of property and replacing the existing UPVC conservatory with a zinc roof and aluminium powder coated windows. Mr and Mrs Roy Matthews - Y Llain, Dimlands road, Llantwit Major - Reduced extensions and alteration works to existing property (amendment to 2013/01134/FUL). Mr Joshua Edwards - Ty Maen Farm, Colwynston, Cowbridge - Installation of three small wind turbines. The turbines are 12.4m hub height, 14.45m tip height and mounted on 12m conical tower. Mr DS Marriott - 31 Marine Drive, Ogmere By Sea - Single storey extension. First floor extension including loft conversion. New access driveway and associated works. Balcony.

Let the Players Entertain you!

NEXT month, Bridgend Castle Players will present their latest production: 'An Evening of Entertainment'.

Four one-act plays will be performed: *From Birmingham Jail* (Martin Luther King Jr) by DM Larson (by permission of www.freedrama.net) directed by Kelly Meek; *The Vampire Council*, written and directed by Phillip Rattray; *Enter a Queen*, by Michael Dines, directed by James Wilson; and *Dance*, written and directed by Phillip Rattray; curtain up 7.30pm.

Performances will be held on: April 11 at Ogmere Vale Non-Political Club (in conjunction with The Nantymoel Community Association); April 13 at Aberkenfig Welfare Hall; and April 19 at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre - 'The Green Hall'.

Details on the Bridgend Castle Players' website: www.bridgendcastleplayers.org.



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Barry dig deep to win in the capital

BARRY RFC made the midweek trip on Tuesday to the capital to face St Josephs at the Cardiff Arms Park under floodlights.

Head coach Darren Gibbon and forwards' coach Dai Griffith had the luxury of having almost a full squad to choose from, and they kept faith with the spine of the side which has seen the team only lose once this calendar year.

In perfect rugby playing conditions, Barry started off with a bang, turning over St Josephs' ball almost instantly to instigate a penalty. Einan Scott coolly slotted over from 40 metres out to give the visitors an early lead.

St Josephs were not rocked by that early set back, and used their heavy pack to try to gain ground in the tight. The hosts showed why they were challenging near the top of the division with their game management, but to Barry's credit the defensive line was superbly marshalled by captain Hywel Jones and ably assisted by Scott, Poole, and most spectacularly Rhys O'Sullivan, who seemed to be a man possessed in the first interval.

With little advantage gained in open play, the hosts decided to utilise the boot and it paid immediate dividends. With a line-out deep in the Barry 22, they formulated a simple yet effective push-over try. The fly-half's attempt at the conversion was wild and inaccurate.

A large crowd roared Barry on in an attempt to reverse the team's fortunes. St Josephs continued to have more of the ball and territory, but were making no inroads despite their impressive pack.

Instead it was Barry who scored slightly against the run of play,

ST JOSEPHS 15 - 18 BARRY

the prop O'Sullivan intercepting from 45 metres out to touch down in the corner. Scott's excellent conversion gave Barry a five point advantage.

With James Hadfield now introduced into the fold following Callum Scott's injury, Barry seemed to have an extra spring in their step and could have scored again if the final pass had only gone to hand.

Instead back came the hosts with another predictable catch-and-drive, with the result another touch-down in the corner. The conversion was missed.

With the scores level at halftime all was still to play for. St Josephs started the second interval much stronger, camping deep in the Barry half.

Their repeated efforts on the Barry line, however, were constantly being repelled by a physically smaller but by no means weaker visiting pack, who withheld the siege.

Strong, surging runs by Provis, Scott, Jones and Tanner saw Barry regain possession and territory, and the result a kickable penalty in the home 22.

Hadfield, sensing an opportunity for more than just three points, tapped quickly and charged towards the try-line, only to be stopped just short, but not before he had recycled the ball for the Barry pack and Alyn Evans was on hand to score his fourth try of the season.

Scott's conversion sailed narrowly wide to the cheers of the St Josephs' crowd - but their delight would be short-lived.

Having regained the momentum, Barry sensed a chance to kill the game off and surged forward again. The

home side had no choice but to concede another penalty, in almost an identical position to the earlier missed conversion, but this time Scott made no mistake as he bisected the posts.

With the game seemingly out of reach for St Josephs and down to 14 men following a red card, the hosts showed the determination that saw them near the top of the league by scoring a late, unconverted try. Barry, however, held out the last two minutes - although not without drama - to record a well-earned 18-15 victory.

The effort, attitude and skill levels shown by the players and man-

agement alike were commendable. The club would also like to thank the travelling support who made this a night to remember.

Barry's next scheduled game against Nantymoel on the March 22 has been postponed due to the visitors' Cup commitments, and therefore the 1st XV will return to action on March 29 away at local rivals Cowbridge.

Team: Ryan; Busuttil, Richie O'Sullivan, Provis, Cordle; E Scott, Lee; Rhys O'Sullivan, Evans, Hollister; Tanner, G Jones; C Scott, Poole, H Jones (c)
Replacements: Oaten, Hadfield, L O'Sullivan, Gallivan
Man-of-the-match: Rhys O'Sullivan.

Cowbridge bowlers' trip to the south coast

COWBRIDGE Bowling Club has just returned from a bowling trip to Torquay, where members stayed in the Toorak Hotel, which is part of a bowling complex.

The party consisted of 37 bowlers and their two supporters, Reta Thomas and Pat Kent, and everyone had a good time.

We had two teams, red and blue, and each team played one game every day against other

touring clubs, resulting in four wins and four losses. The weather was good, although we were playing indoors, and everyone was able to get out and about and enjoy the sunshine.

The thanks for organizing the trip goes to Sue Flower, with help from John Jones, and team captains Guy Morton and Norman Wilkinson. Our next trip will be our autumn tour at the end of the season to the Isle of Wight.

NJW

Men's bowls club meeting

LLANTWIT Major Men's Bowls Club is holding their pre-season meeting on Tuesday March 25 at the pavilion; all members are invited to the meeting, which starts at 7pm.

The club is also looking for new members who would like to take up the game. Free coaching is available, and there is also an active social side with frequent events.

BRYNHILL RESULTS

COMPETITION No.18 results, March 16:

1st Julian Hopkins & John Kirkpatrick 49 points, 2nd Lee Price & Joe Brookman 48 points, 3rd Gareth Tinnuche & Dave Such 43 points.

Number of competitors: 43 pairs.

All temporary handicaps now revert back to handicaps listed on the handicaps board; results subject to scrutiny.

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The Barry Stars shooting again!

A TEAM of skittlers from Barry have their sights firmly set on higher things this year.

The Barry Stars reached the quarter finals of last year's British Skittles Championships at their first attempt, and they're determined to do even better this time.

Team secretary Linda Lambeth confirmed the team's entry in the championships under the new banner, the Butcombe British Skittles Championships, now celebrating its 10th anniversary.

A team from Wales, the Railway Rockers from Cardiff, were

crowned the very first British ladies' champions, but since then, no Welsh team has made the podium either as a champion or runner up.

However, all that could change if the Barry Stars find their winning form again and as Linda put it, 'a little bit of luck.'

The competition begins next month with series of knockout rounds. Then 64 finalists emerge from that process. The grand finals take place on Saturday, September 20 at Torquay's Riviera International Conference Centre; last year's attracted more than 1,000 skittlers and supporters.

JB

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by **TIM
SAUNDERS**

TRANSPORTING seven people in comfort can present a problem unless, of course, you don't mind Transit vans.

Peugeot has a solution though in its 5008 MPV (multi-purpose vehicle). Unlike the earlier Peugeot 807 people carrier, the 5008 is more compact, making it more enjoyable to drive but this does mean that if there are seven passengers, there's not a huge amount of room for luggage. Importantly for the driver, it's not too difficult to reverse or manoeuvre.

This style of vehicle is quite van like in terms of appearance but it is very much like a car to drive and driver appeal is one of the advantages of the Peugeot.

The test model, a two-litre diesel Allure – top-of-the-range – is equipped with a six speed automatic gearbox but it can also be driven like a manual.

At low speeds, typically up hill, this gearbox is a little indecisive, not sure whether to go for third gear or



The Peugeot 5008.

second, which does make for the occasional uncomfortable jolt. It is quite frugal for a vehicle of its size, returning over 40mpg on average.

I put it through its paces over a long weekend to Pembrokeshire where we experienced a variety of roads.

On the motorway (the M4, over the Severn Bridge) it was very capable, happily cruising at 70mph, even though it was heavily laden with five passengers and luggage. Cruise control makes life so much easier on such travels and the electric child lock engaged by the click of a switch on the driver's door is easy to operate.

The one way streets, invariably up sharp inclines in this part of

the world, certainly cause the tired motorist some confusion but thank goodness I'm driving the 5008, because the auto box makes light work of the hills.

I'm not usually a fan of electronic handbrakes but the one fitted to this vehicle is quick and simple to engage and disengage.

Inside, the Allure benefits from an enormous panoramic glass roof (with electric sliding cover), which makes the vehicle really light and airy as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

The front passengers get captain style seats with pull down armrests that can be adjusted to the desired height. The driver's seat is certainly com-

fortable, hardwearing and supportive although I do find that when my daughter's baby seat is in place behind I cannot push my seat back quite as far as I might desire. There are all the gadgets the modern

day motorist could dream of including sat nav, a useful head-up display showing the speed and ensuring the driver doesn't take their eyes off the road. Air conditioning and a good quality sound system are all part of the package.

I like the way that the centre of the dash, with all the controls for the air conditioning, slopes forward at an angle towards the windscreen, in quite a futuristic way.

New price range: £18,600 - £25,855.

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Wales and the Six Nations

FINAL TALLY: three home wins + two away defeats = third place



SEVENS-STYLE FINALE!

Welsh rugby's turnaround has much tougher tests to come

ONCE again, former Prime Minister Harold Wilson's wry adage that "a week is a long time in politics" has proved equally true of the fast-changing fortunes of Welsh rugby – as a near capacity crowd revelled in a Mardi Gras-like seven tries fest at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday.

Admittedly, the opposition were a team in flux, braced for yet another regime change and struggling for direction in a no man's land, ill-favoured by Lady Luck – a situation once all too familiar here in Wales.

Moreover, the team in question, Scotland, came to Cardiff knowing it was a tough assignment, having lost 10 of the previous 11 matches between the two nations, who first clashed 151 years ago, on January 8, 1863 in Raeburn.

In fact, historically the Scots had won only 16 of the 42 meetings on Welsh turf and in 118 games overall, had recorded 48 wins to Wales' 67, with three matches drawn.

With the odds already stacked against them, they must have counted on an inconsistent Welsh team – showing six changes from the insipid losing display against England the week before – again misfiring.

If so, they were disappointed, for this time a revitalised Wales came out with far more energy and purposeful intent, even though first blood went to the Scots, with scrum half Greig Laidlaw lofting over a penalty for what was to prove his team's only score in the match.

In the absence of injured full back Leigh Halfpenny, the kicking duties for Wales were in the hands (or rather, boot) of outside half Dan Biggar, who made no mistake when desperate defenders were penalised in front of their posts.

Given the below-par, away performances against Ireland and England, when his defending Six Nations champions had slipped so far below the high standards set in two Grand Slams and a Rugby World Cup semi final, it was perhaps not surprising that Wales' head coach Warren Gatland had finally wielded the axe for the final fixture.

The six changes, one caused by the season-ending injury to Halfpenny in making a heroic try-saving tackle on England's Luther Burrell at Twickenham, included the surprising demotion to the substitutes bench of scrum pillar Adam Jones and action man hooker Richard Hibbard, with young Scarlet

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

Rhodri Jones coming in at tight head, alongside team mate Ken Owens.

Not so surprising was the replacement in the starting line-up of Scarlets' pivot Rhys Priestland by Ospreys' Dan Biggar and the return of Mike Phillips for the injured Rhys Webb at scrum half.

While Gatland explained that he was looking to squad development and to "give others a chance to shine" – with next year's World Cup in mind – it was also clearly intended to send a blunt reminder to established front liners, in the context of recent displays, that no-one's place was safe.

Even so, six changes, two enforced by injury, could hardly be described as 'a night of the long knives', with the Kiwi candidly admitting that the coaching staff too had had to accept some of the responsibility for the Twickenham debacle.

Whatever the rationale behind the new-look selection, it clearly worked – for Wales were a side suddenly transformed, with forwards and backs combining from the outset to lay siege to their opponents' line.

The intense pressure finally told, with man-of-the-match, Liam Williams, joining the attack from full back to touch down for a well-worked try converted by Biggar, making it 10-3 after just 15 minutes.

As if they didn't have trouble enough, five minutes later, the already struggling Scots suffered a hammer blow when full back Stuart Hogg received a yellow card, swiftly changed to a red one by the referee after video playback (an interesting precedent this!) for a reckless shoulder charge that snapped Biggar's head violently backwards and could have had serious consequences.

Thankfully, after treatment the young outside half was able to resume, and immediately added three more points with the resulting penalty. To their credit, 14-man Scotland mounted pressure of their own, forcing Wales into scrambled defence, though Laidlaw failed to gain their deserved reward when they were awarded a penalty.

However, Wales were now beginning to put their training ground moves together and it was no surprise when George North, who would be a thorn in the Scottish side throughout, capped a breathtaking run by Liam Williams with a try, converted by Biggar – and suddenly it was 20-3.

Then another pulsating movement saw Jonathan Davies touch down, but the try was

disallowed – only for co-centre Jamie Roberts to make the halftime score an imposing 27-3, following another powerful handling movement involving forwards and backs that split the defence asunder.

After the changeover, the outgunned men from the north were almost immediately hit by yet another all-out attack which saw North ground his second try, after a well judged delayed pass by Jonathan Davies – Biggar this time failing to add the two points.

With tries coming thick and fast in sevens rugby style, the depleted Scots could have been forgiven for letting their heads drop, but instead they maintained a spirited response, even managing to secure a fair share of possession and territory – though breaching the solid Welsh defensive wall ultimately proved beyond them.

More Welsh tries seemed inevitable and indeed was the case, Jamie Roberts claiming his second, converted by Biggar; and then the tireless No 8 Taulupe Faletau adding a sixth, which went unconverted, to make the score 44-3.

Still Scottish pride refused to bow the knee, but Lady Luck was again against them, one promising movement foundering when a pass went spinning into touch.

Meanwhile, a now totally dominant Wales side had one more trick up its sleeve in the shape of 'super sub' James Hook, thankfully restored to the match squad, who had shown typically skilful touches in a rare cameo appearance.

These included a clever flip pass behind his back, and adroit punt from the side of the boot that set up a seventh and final Welsh try for fellow replacement, scrum half, Rhodri Williams.

Hook's conversion put the seal on a victory which, though it has to be seen in the context of the early sending off, nevertheless at least ended the Six Nations on an encouragingly high note for Wales, given the disjointed earlier performances and emphatically answered those critics who had questioned the Welsh camp's fundamental ethos.

And so ends another Six Nations of mixed fortunes, which had begun with such high hopes of a record triple championship.

Alas, that was not to be, with Wales in the end having to settle for third place behind Ireland and England.

Now the planning starts for an even more testing challenge...South Africa in the summer!

RUGBY MUST KICK THE BOO-BOYS INTO TOUCH...



ABOVE: A consoling hug for Rhys Priestland, who was greeted by mindless booing as he came onto the field.

As the game entered the last quarter and Welsh replacements ran onto the field, there came a shocking incident which in all my years of reporting rugby, I have never witnessed before, and hope never to see again – a Welsh international player being booed onto the field by so-called 'supporters'.

A mindless minority in the crowd, who should be ashamed of themselves, jeered Rhys Priestland, a talented young man who has had more than his share of adversity, but whose commitment to Wales is unquestioned.

One can only hope that this was a one-off episode and not an ominous sign of the times that the kind of unacceptable behaviour more usually associated with the round ball version, is now creeping into our national game, which has always prided itself on fair-minded sportsmanship. (See page 30 for more match action).

19th Hole



4

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